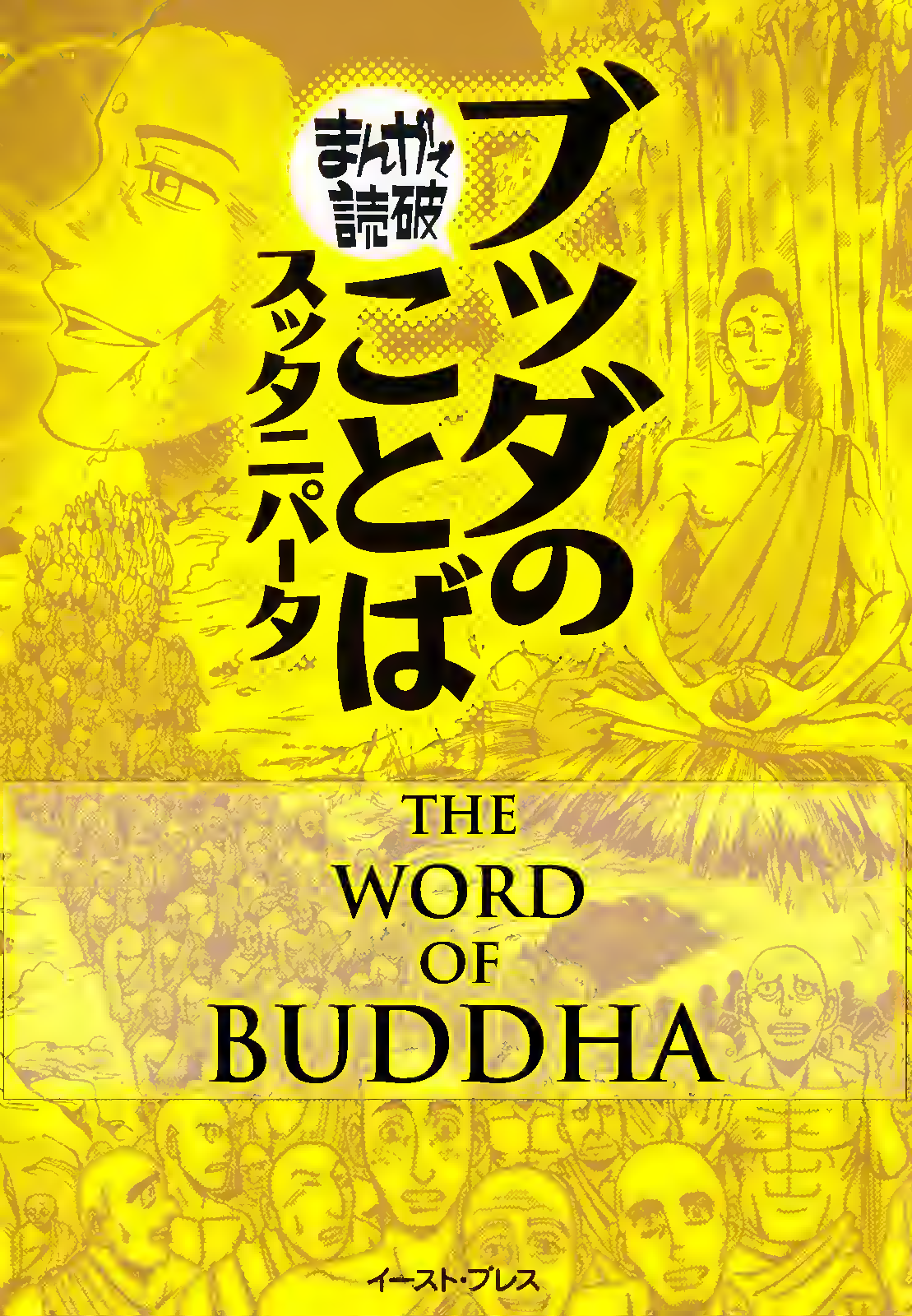

まんがで読破
ブッダのことば
スッタニパータ
THE
WORD
OF
BUDDHA
イースト・プレス

まんがで読破

ブッダのことば

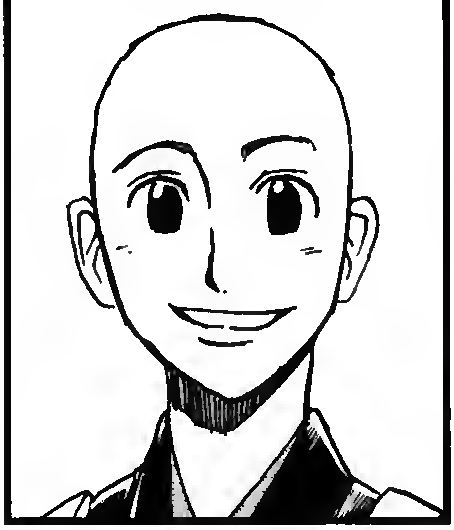
スッタニパータ

THE WORD OF BUDDHA

SUTTA NIPATA

IN MANGA FORM!

イースト・プレス



THE WORD OF BUDDHA

SUTTA NIPATA

MAIN CHARACTERS

BUTSUGAKU

THE NARRATOR OF THIS BOOK.
HE IS A MONK WHO FOLLOWS THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA (SUTTA NIPATA), AND EXPLAINS TO US THE ANCIENT BUDDHIST TRADITIONS AND HOW IT RELATES TO OUR MODERN SOCIETY.

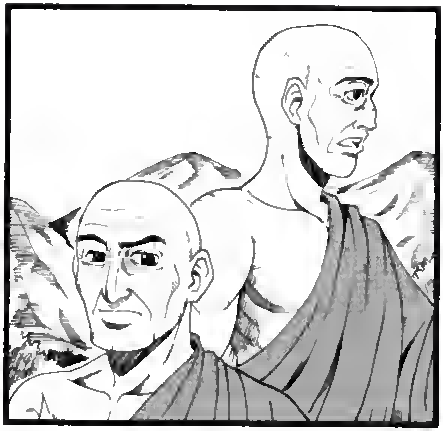
THE GATES OF SWEET NECTAR HAVE OPENED!
I SHALL SHARE THE TRUTH AND LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO ME
TO THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR!

YASODHARA

THE WIFE OF BUDDHA (SIDDHARTHA)

KING SUDDHODANA

BUDDHA'S FATHER, THE KING OF THE SHAKYA PEOPLE. HE OPPOSES BUDDHA'S DECISION TO BECOME A MONK.



SARIPUTTA & MAUDGALYAYANA

TWO OF BUDDHA'S PRINCIPAL DISCIPLES. THEY ARE CONSIDERED TWO CENTRAL LEADERS OF THE RELIGIOUS GROUP.

ANANDA

HE IS ONE OF THE TEN MAIN DISCIPLES, WHO FOLLOWED AND LISTENED TO THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA FOR THE LONGEST TIME. ALSO KNOWN AS "FOREMOST IN HAVING LISTENED TO BUDDHA S TEACHINGS".

BUDDHA (GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA)

THE FOUNDER OF BUDDHISM. HE BECAME A MONK IN ORDER TO OVERCOME HUMAN SUFFERING. AFTER AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY, HE ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT. EVEN AFTER THIS, HE CONTINUED FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS TO BESTOW HIS GREAT TEACHINGS TO MANY MORE PEOPLE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROLOGUE 5

GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA 14

THE WANDERING MONK 38

SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT 52

THE JOURNEY OF TEACHING 72

THE GROWTH OF BUDDHISM 99

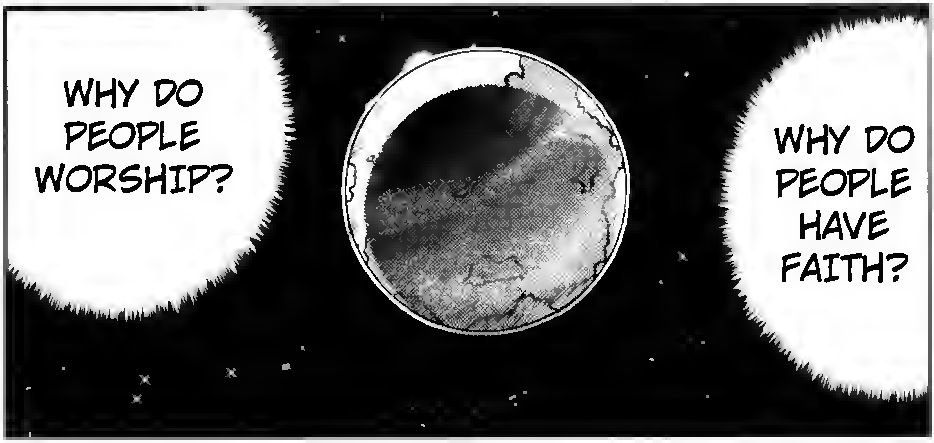
DEATH FROM OLD AGE 129

THE STATE OF PEACE 143

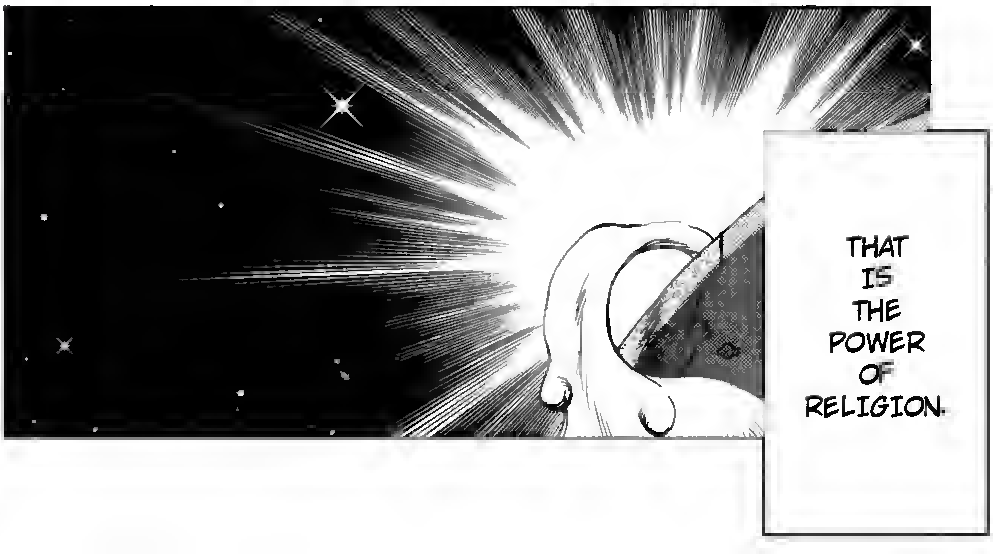
THE DEATH OF BUDDHA 160

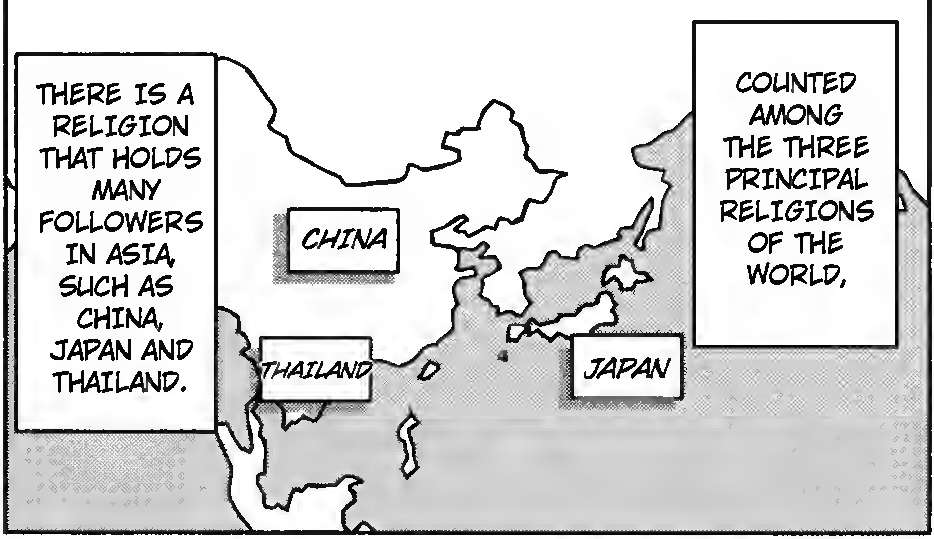
EPILOGUE 180

THERE ARE MANY RELIGIONS, AND PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS OF FAITH CAN BE FOUND.
IN THIS WORLD ...
PROLOGUE

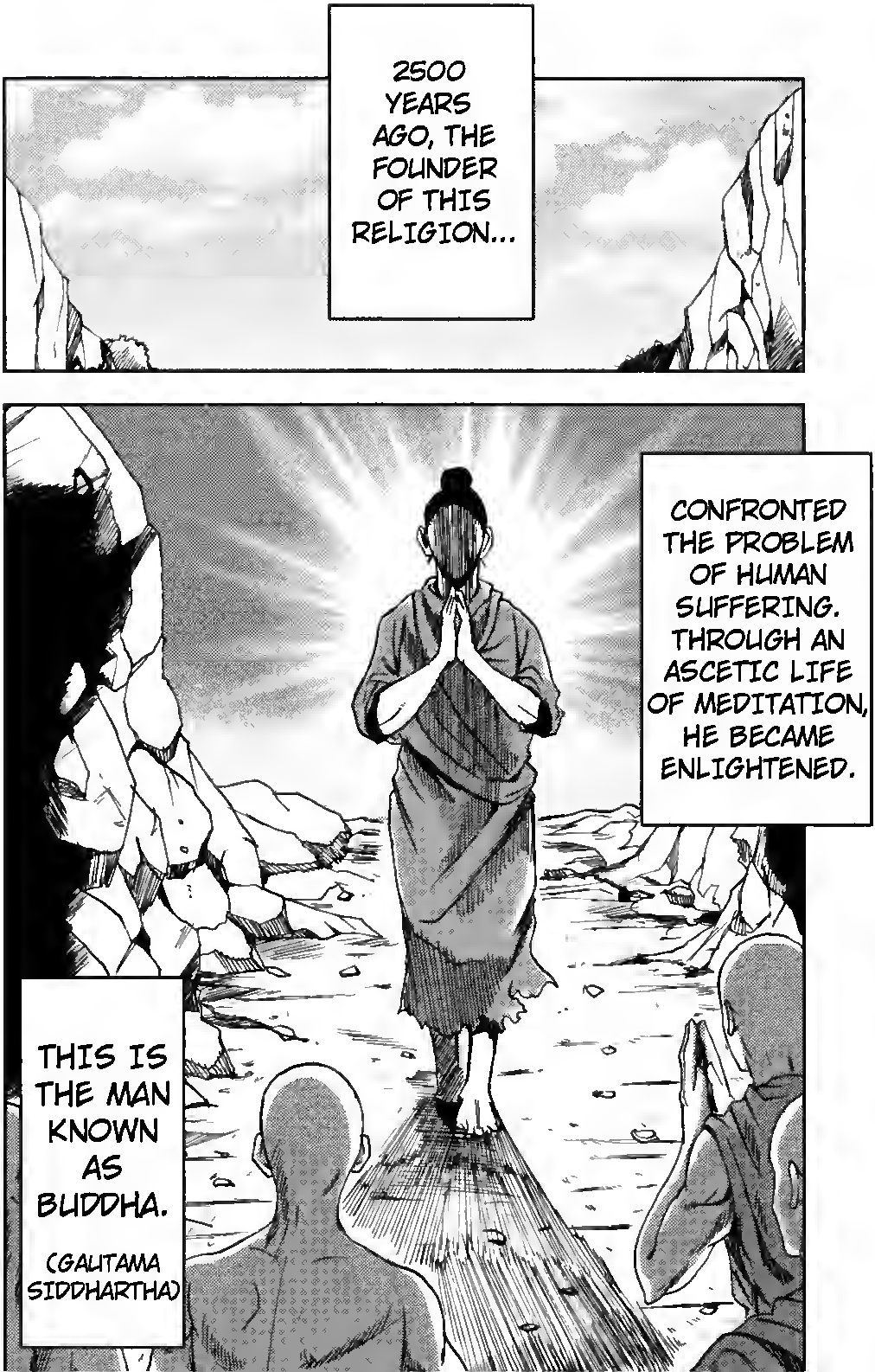

WHY DO PEOPLE WORSHIP?
WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE FAITH?

RELIGION GIVES ANSWERS TO PEOPLE'S FEARS OF UNCERTAINTY AND DEATH.
IT SHOWS PEOPLE HOW TO LEAD A BETTER LIFE.


THAT IS THE POWER OF RELIGION.


THERE IS A RELIGION THAT HOLDS MANY FOLLOWERS IN ASIA, SUCH AS CHINA, JAPAN AND THAILAND.
CHINA
THAILAND
JAPAN
COUNTED AMONG THE THREE PRINCIPAL RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD,

THAT IS BUDDHISM.

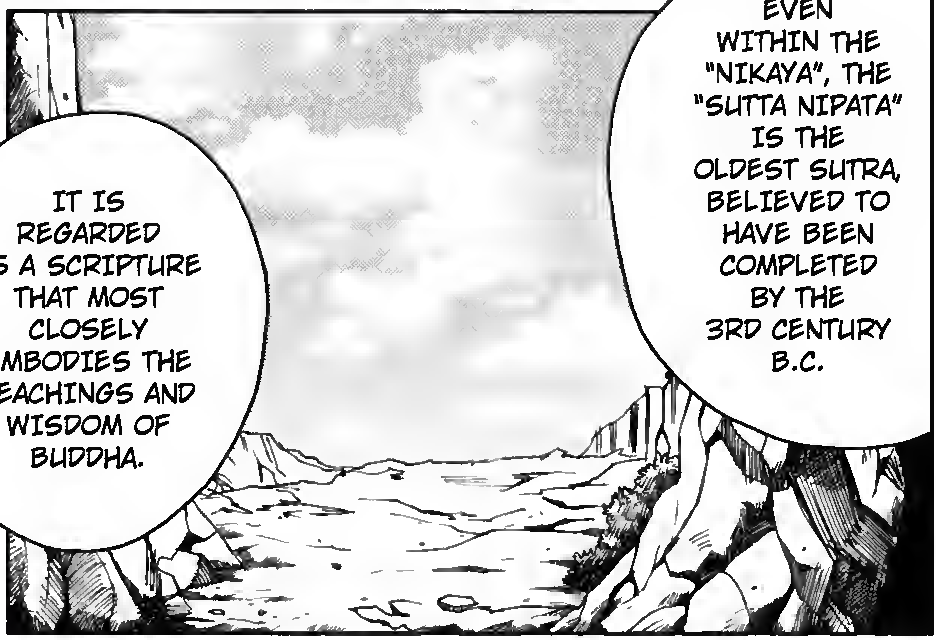

2500 YEARS AGO, THE FOUNDER OF THIS RELIGION...
CONFRONTED THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN SUFFERING. THROUGH AN ASCETIC LIFE OF MEDITATION, HE BECAME ENLIGHTENED.
THIS IS THE MAN KNOWN AS BUDDHA.
(GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA)

IN LIFE, WORRIES AND SUFFERING ARE INEVITABLE.
PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE THEIR LIVES AVOIDING THEM.
FOR ALL THIS TIME, PEOPLE HAVE CONTINUED THEIR LIVES UNDER THESE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.
HOWEVER, BY STUDYING THE TEACHINGS AND WISDOM OF BUDDHA,
WE MAY BE ABLE TO FREE OURSELVES OF THOSE ANXIETIES.

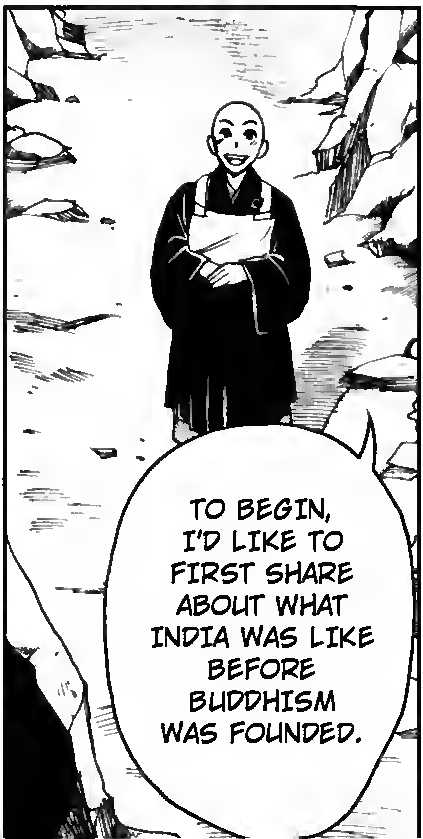
NOW, LET US EXPLORE THE LIFE OF BUDDHA AND HIS ANCIENT SCRIPTURE, THE "SUTTA NIPATA".

THROUGH THIS, WE WILL UNCOVER THE WONDERFUL TEACHINGS AND WISDOM THAT HE LEFT BEHIND.

NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS BUTSUGAKU.
I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALL OF YOU ABOUT THE WISE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA.
WE'LL BE LOOKING AT HIS LIFE AND SCRIPTURE, THE "SUTTA NIPATA".
"SUTTA NIPATA" IS FOUND IN THE OLDEST SUTRAS, THE "NIKAYA", WHICH STILL EXIST TODAY.
IT IS A SCRIPTURE COMPOSED OF DIALOGUES BETWEEN BUDDHA AND HIS DISCIPLES.

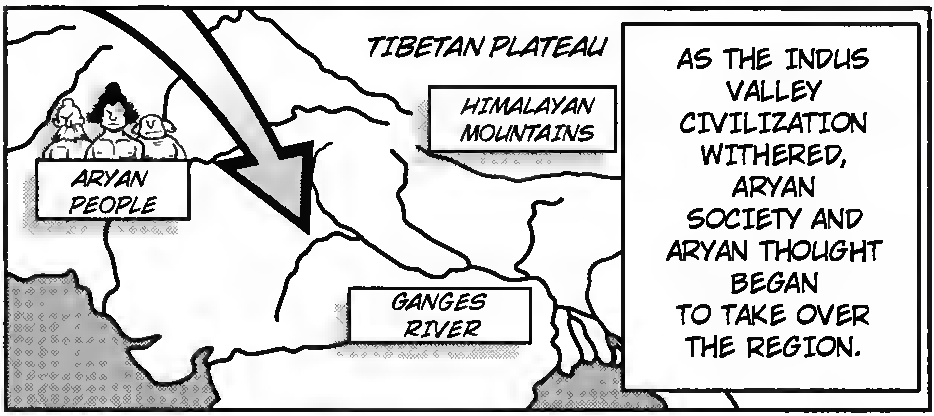

EVEN WITHIN THE "NIKAYA", THE "SUTTA NIPATA" IS THE OLDEST SUTRA, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THE 3RD CENTURY B.C.
IT IS REGARDED AS A SCRIPTURE THAT MOST CLOSELY EMBODIES THE TEACHINGS AND WISDOM OF BUDDHA.

WE'LL EXAMINE THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH BUDDHA WAS BORN.


TO BEGIN, I'D LIKE TO FIRST SHARE ABOUT WHAT INDIA WAS LIKE BEFORE BUDDHISM WAS FOUNDED.

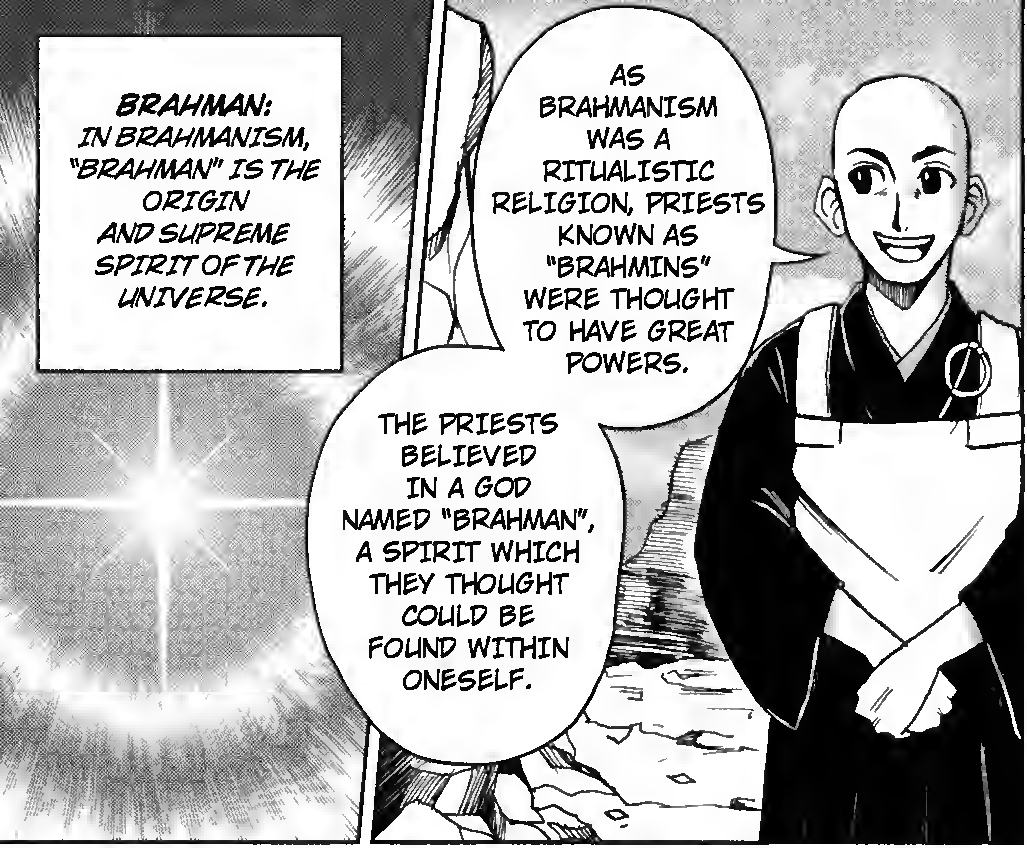
THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION WAS A PROSPEROUS CIVILIZATION IN ANCIENT INDIA. HOWEVER, IN 1800 B.C., THE ARYAN PEOPLE INVADED THE AREA, CAUSING THE CIVILIZATION TO FALL.

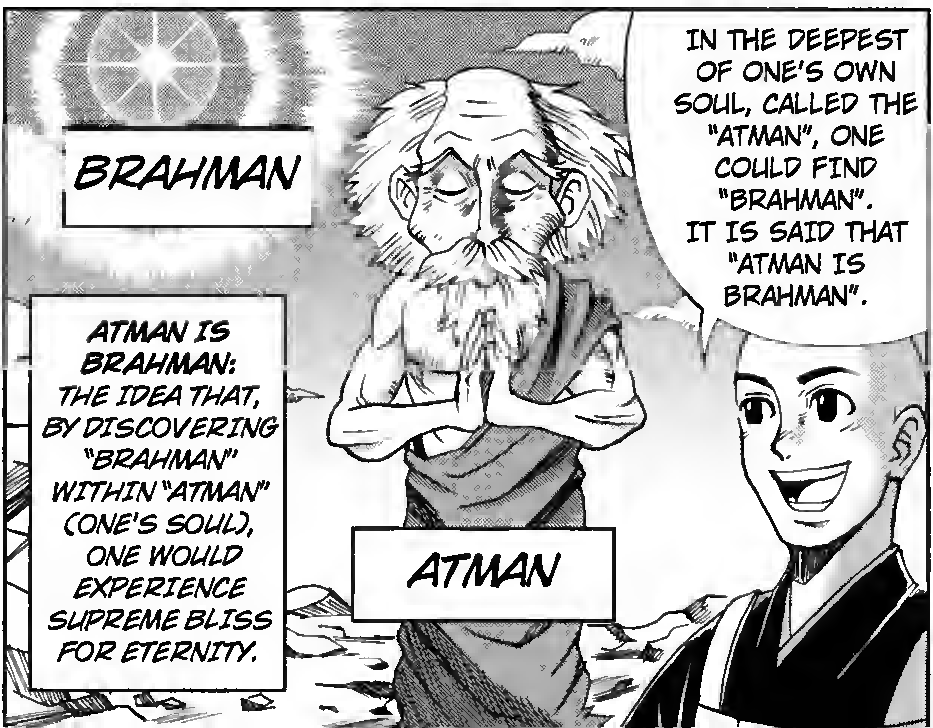
GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA

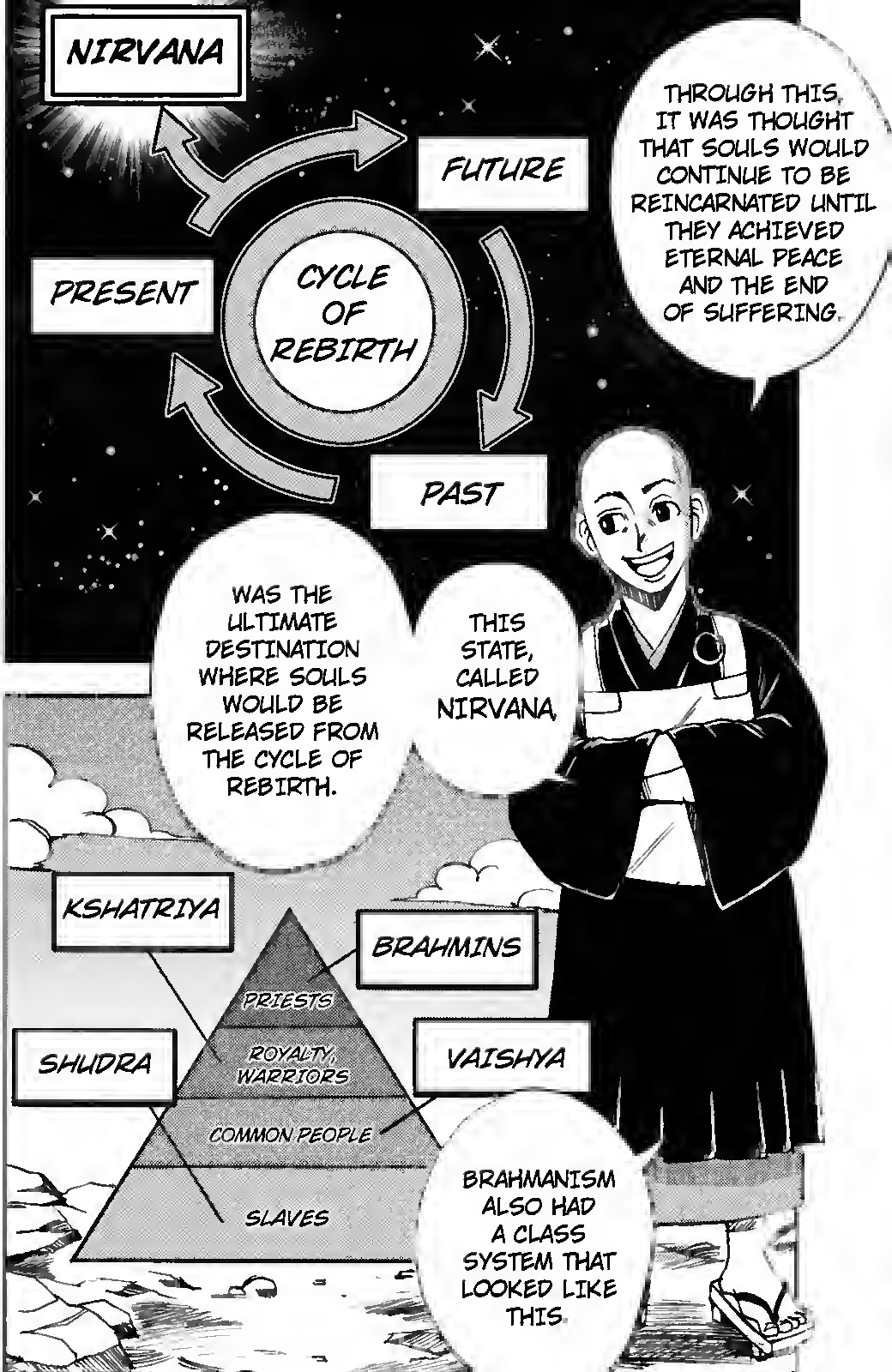


AS THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION WITHERED, ARYAN SOCIETY AND ARYAN THOUGHT BEGAN TO TAKE OVER THE REGION.

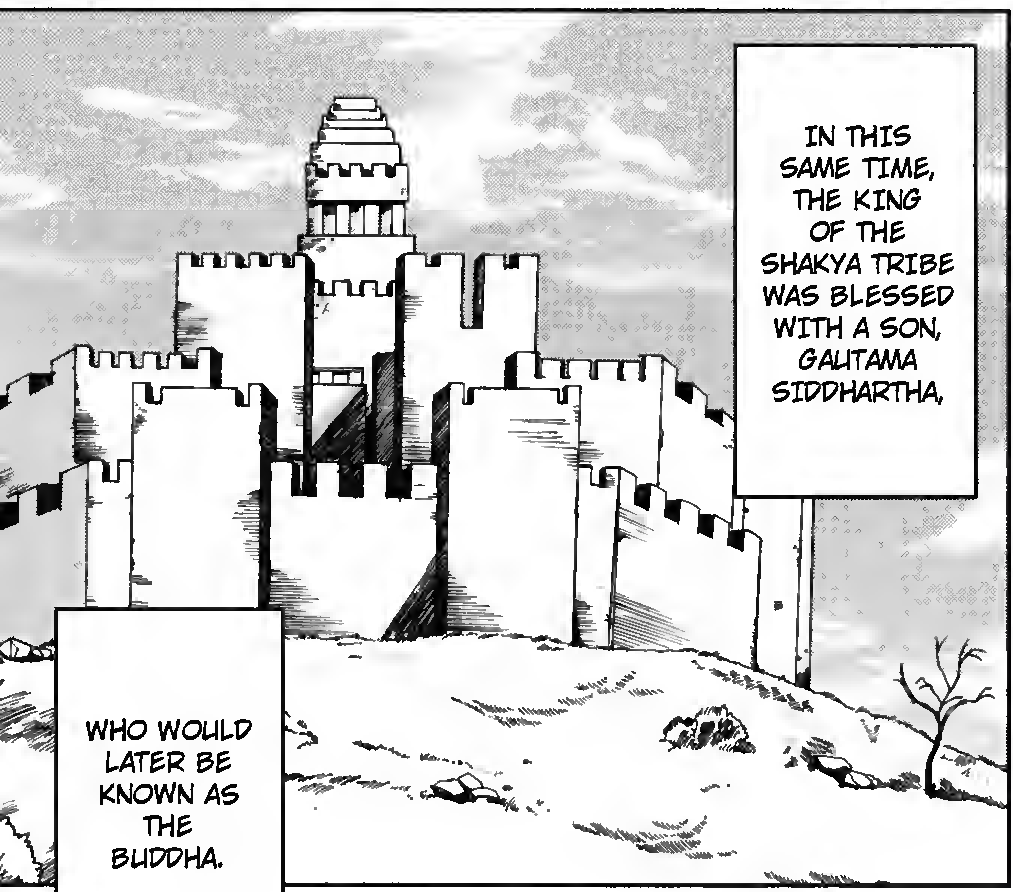
BY 800 B.C., A RELIGION CALLED BRAHMANISM, WHICH HELD RITUALS BASED ON SACRED SCRIPTURES CALLED "VEDAS", EMERGED.


BRAHMAN:
IN BRAHMANISM, "BRAHMAN" IS THE ORIGIN AND SUPREME SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE.
AS BRAHMANISM WAS A RITUALISTIC RELIGION, PRIESTS KNOWN AS "BRAHMINS" WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE GREAT POWERS.
THE PRIESTS BELIEVED IN A GOD NAMED "BRAHMAN", A SPIRIT WHICH THEY THOUGHT COULD BE FOUND WITHIN ONESELF.


BRAHMAN
ATMAN IS BRAHMAN:
THE IDEA THAT, BY DISCOVERING "BRAHMAN" WITHIN "ATMAN" (ONE'S SOUL), ONE WOULD EXPERIENCE SUPREME BLISS FOR ETERNITY.
IN THE DEEPEST OF ONE'S OWN SOUL, CALLED THE "ATMAN", ONE COULD FIND "BRAHMAN". IT IS SAID THAT "ATMAN IS BRAHMAN".
ATMAN

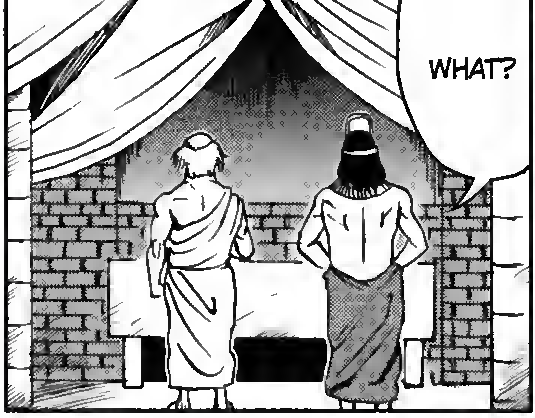

NIRVANA
FUTURE
PRESENT
CYCLE OF REBIRTH
PAST
THROUGH THIS, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT SOULS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REINCARNATED UNTIL THEY ACHIEVED ETERNAL PEACE AND THE END OF SUFFERING.
THIS STATE, CALLED NIRVANA,
WAS THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION WHERE SOULS WOULD BE RELEASED FROM THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH.
KSHATRIYA
BRAHMINS
PRIESTS
ROYALTY, WARRIORS
SHUDRA
VAISHYA
COMMON PEOPLE
SLAVES
BRAHMANISM ALSO HAD A CLASS SYSTEM THAT LOOKED LIKE THIS.

AROUND 500 B.C. ALONG THE GANGES RIVER, THERE WERE SIXTEEN KINGDOMS OF ALL SIZES THAT WERE EXPERIENCING AN INTENSE PERIOD OF SOCIAL CHANGE.



IN THIS SAME TIME, THE KING OF THE SHAKYA TRIBE WAS BLESSED WITH A SON, GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA,

WHO WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS THE BUDDHA.


WHAT?

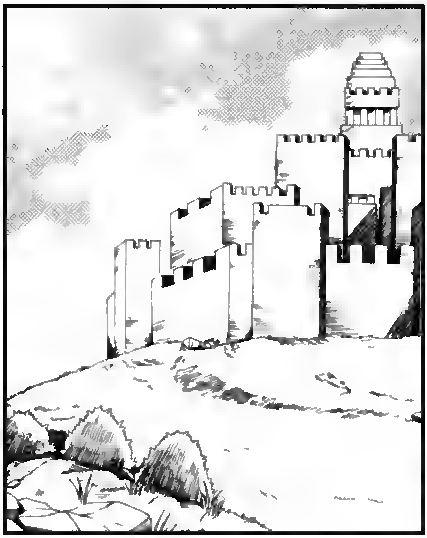
GASP! YOUR SON... HE... HE WILL BE...

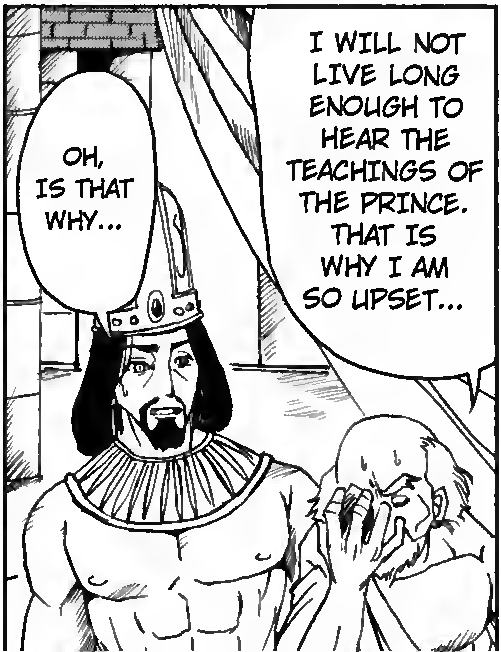
WHAT DO YOU SEE, GREAT SEER ASITA?

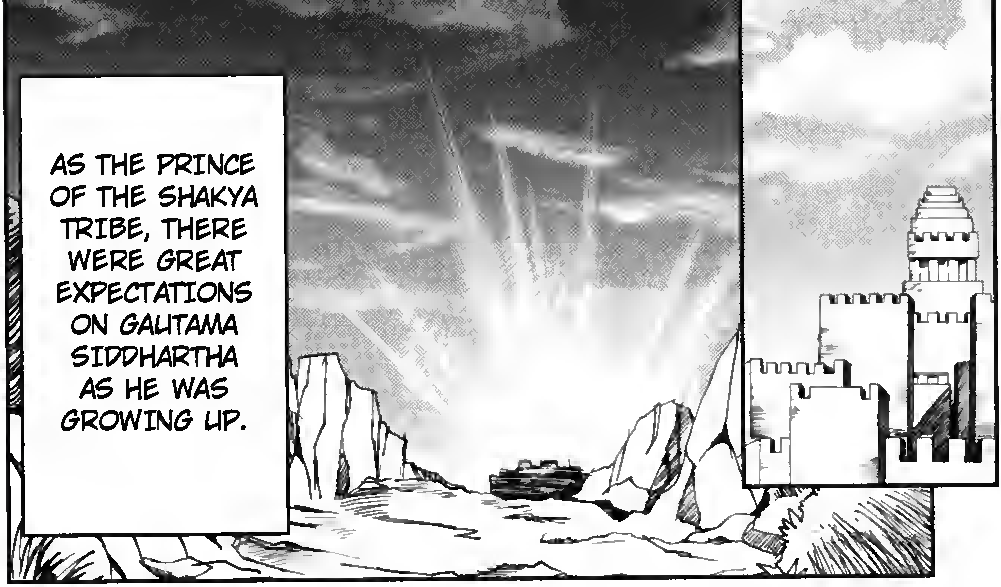
OH NO! IT'S SOMETHING BAD, ISN'T IT?

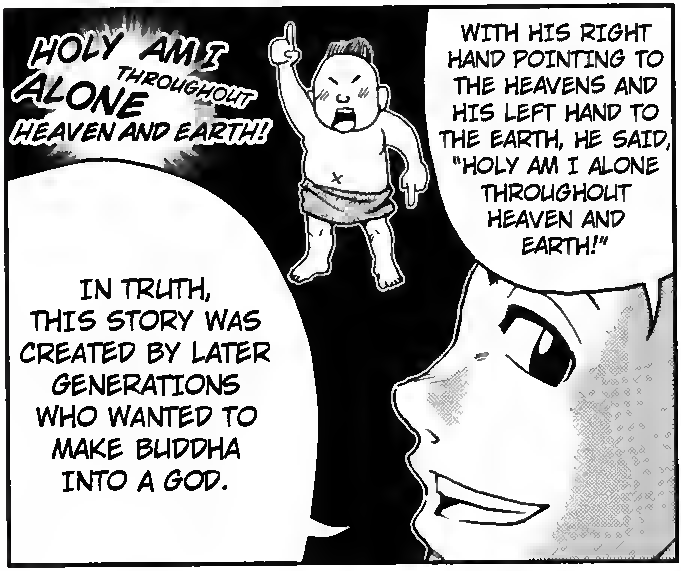
UH... UHH...
WILL HE GROW UP TO BECOME A POWERFUL MAN?

THEN, WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. THE PRINCE WILL BECOME A GREAT SPIRITUAL TEACHER OF THE WORLD.



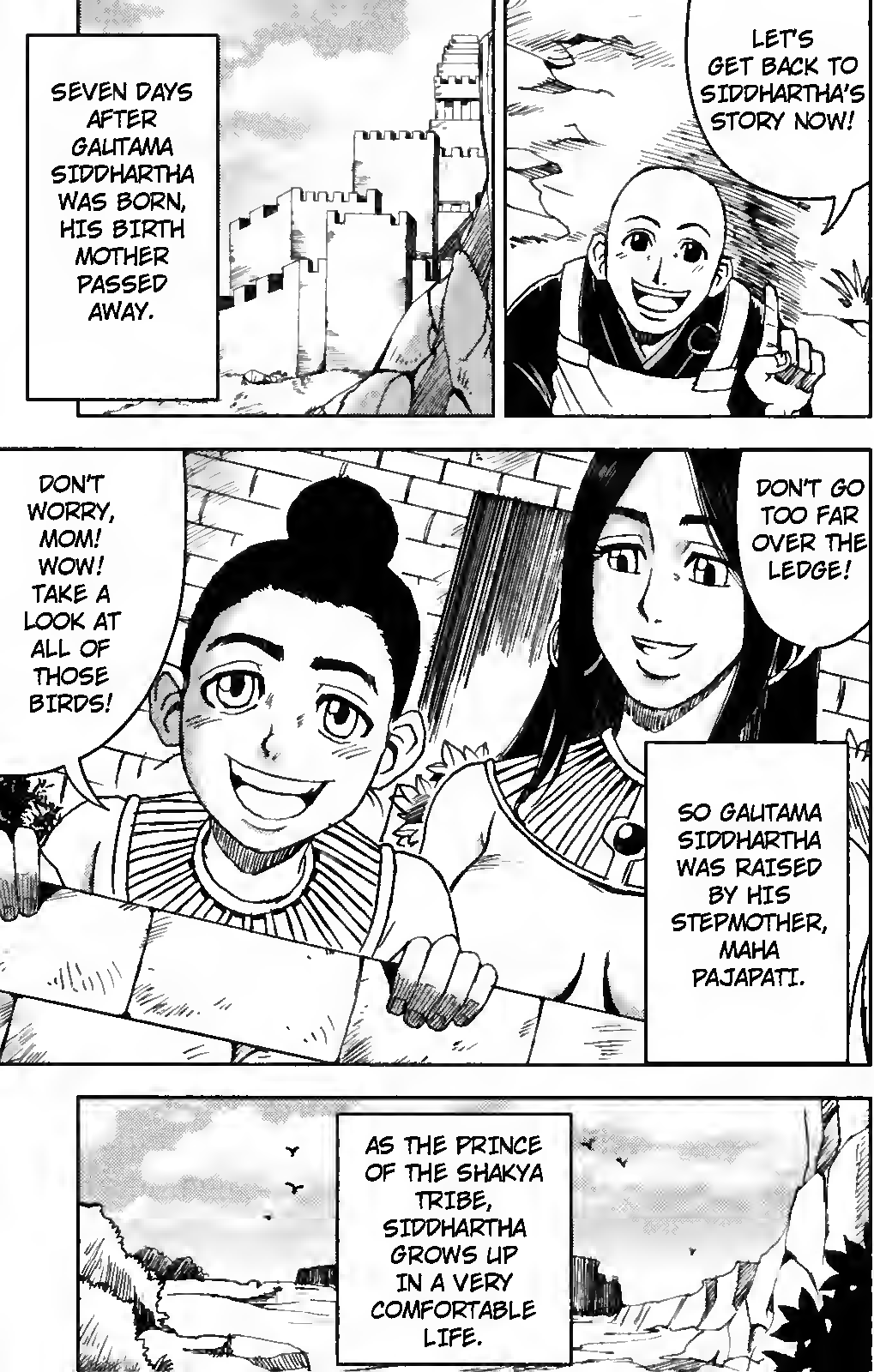

OH, IS THAT WHY...
I WILL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO HEAR THE TEACHINGS OF THE PRINCE. THAT IS WHY I AM SO UPSET...

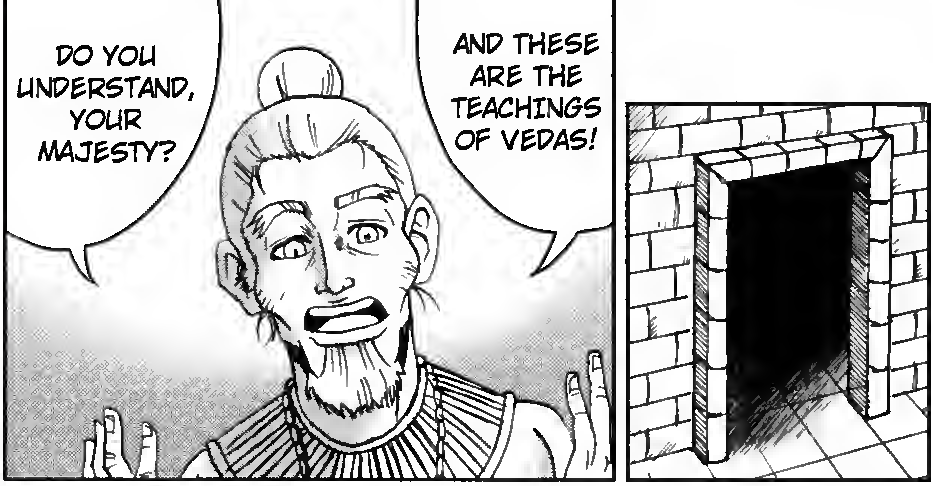

AS THE PRINCE OF THE SHAKYA TRIBE, THERE WERE GREAT EXPECTATIONS ON GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA AS HE WAS GROWING UP.

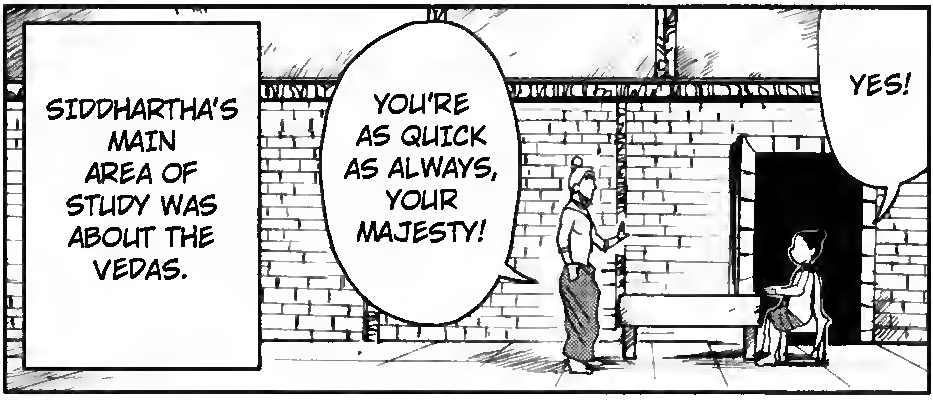

HOLY AM I ALONE THROUGHOUT HEAVEN AND EARTH!
WITH HIS RIGHT HAND POINTING TO THE HEAVENS AND HIS LEFT HAND TO THE EARTH, HE SAID, "HOLY AM I ALONE THROUGHOUT HEAVEN AND EARTH!"
IN TRUTH, THIS STORY WAS CREATED BY LATER GENERATIONS WHO WANTED TO MAKE BUDDHA INTO A GOD.

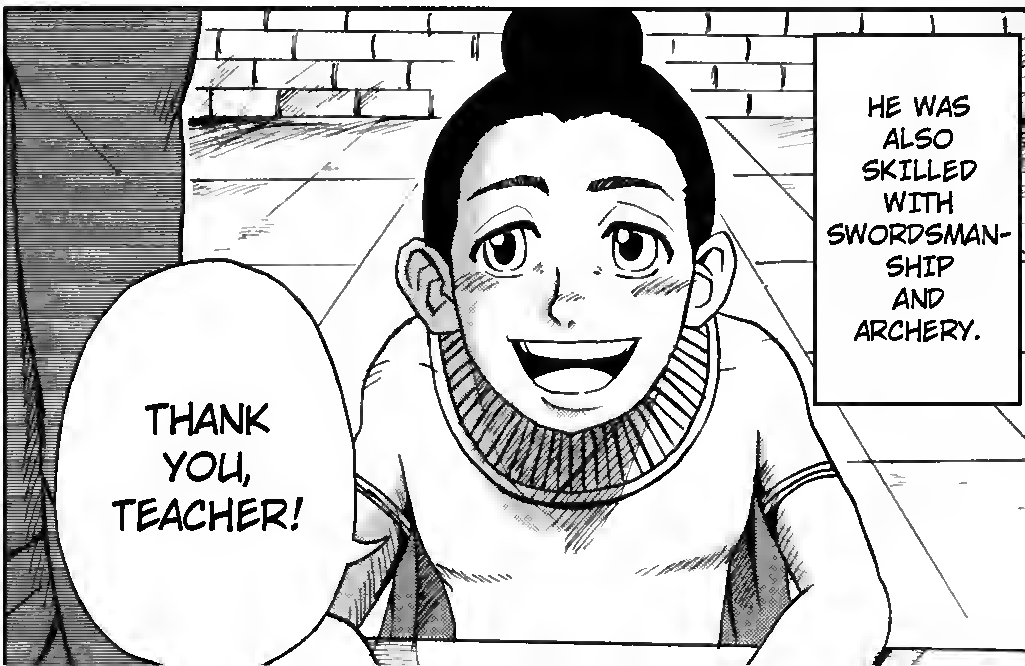
THERE IS A FAMOUS STORY WHERE BUDDHA WALKED SEVEN STEPS IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH.
STEP

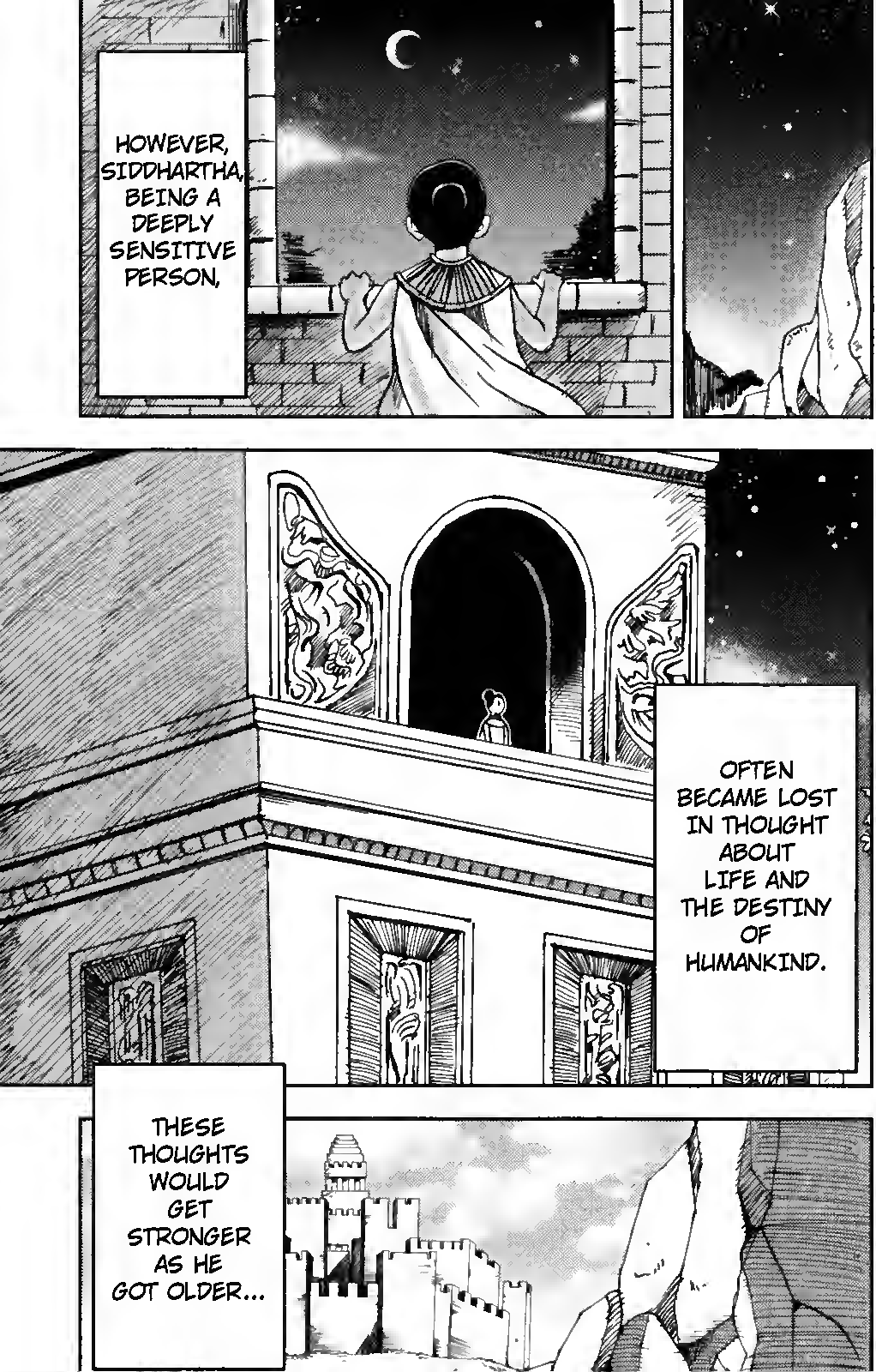
GAUTAMA ⇨ THE BEST COW
SIDDHARTHA ⇨ A MAN WHO ACHIEVES HIS AIM
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA'S NAME.
AND IF YOU LOOK HERE,


SEVEN DAYS AFTER GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA WAS BORN, HIS BIRTH MOTHER PASSED AWAY.
LET'S GET BACK TO SIDDHARTHA'S STORY NOW!
DON'T WORRY, MOM! WOW! TAKE A LOOK AT ALL OF THOSE BIRDS!
DON'T GO TOO FAR OVER THE LEDGE!
SO GAUTAMA SIDDHARTHA WAS RAISED BY HIS STEPMOTHER, MAHA PAJAPATI.
AS THE PRINCE OF THE SHAKYA TRIBE, SIDDHARTHA GROWS UP IN A VERY COMFORTABLE LIFE.

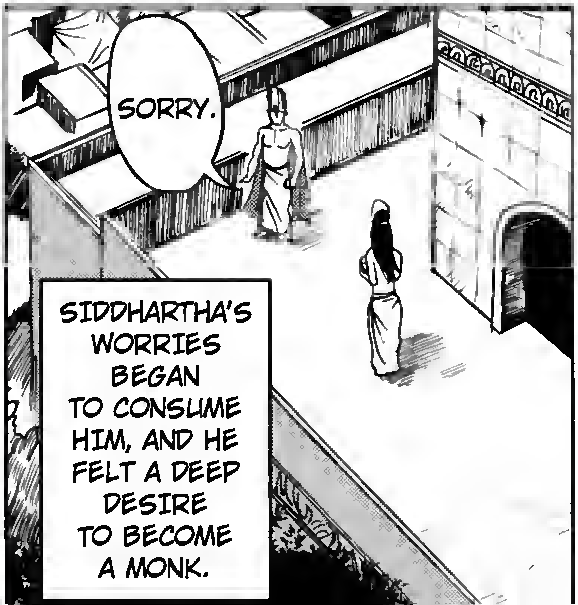

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOUR MAJESTY?
AND THESE ARE THE TEACHINGS OF VEDAS!


SIDDHARTHA'S MAIN AREA OF STUDY WAS ABOUT THE VEDAS.
YOU'RE AS QUICK AS ALWAYS, YOUR MAJESTY!
YES!

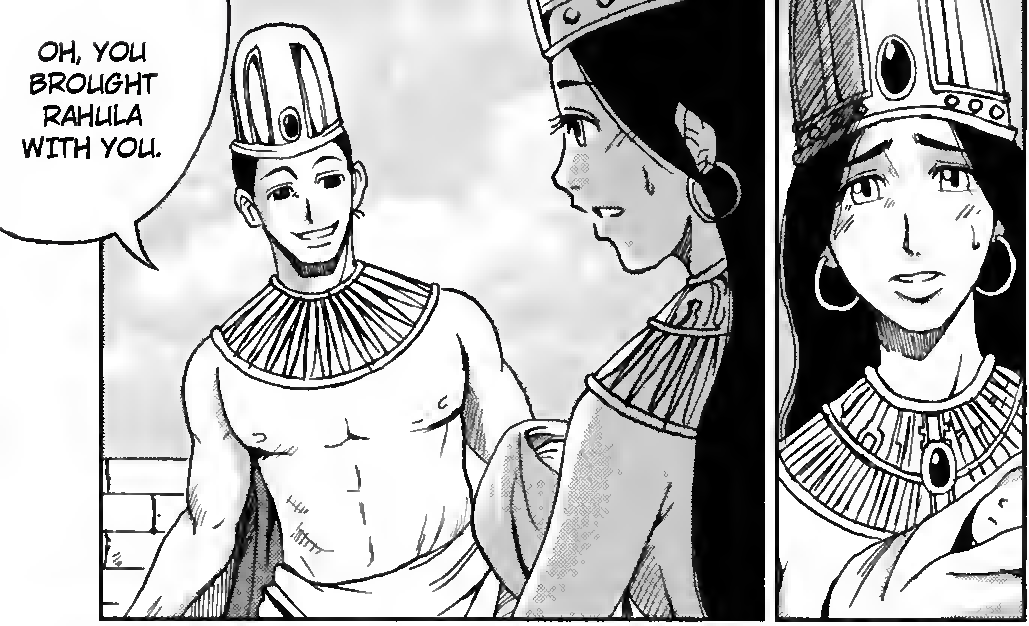

HE WAS ALSO SKILLED WITH SWORDSMAN-SHIP AND ARCHERY.
THANK YOU, TEACHER!


HOWEVER, SIDDHARTHA, BEING A DEEPLY SENSITIVE PERSON,
OFTEN BECAME LOST IN THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE AND THE DESTINY OF HUMANKIND.
THESE THOUGHTS WOULD GET STRONGER AS HE GOT OLDER...

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?


SORRY.
SIDDHARTHA'S WORRIES BEGAN TO CONSUME HIM, AND HE FELT A DEEP DESIRE TO BECOME A MONK.

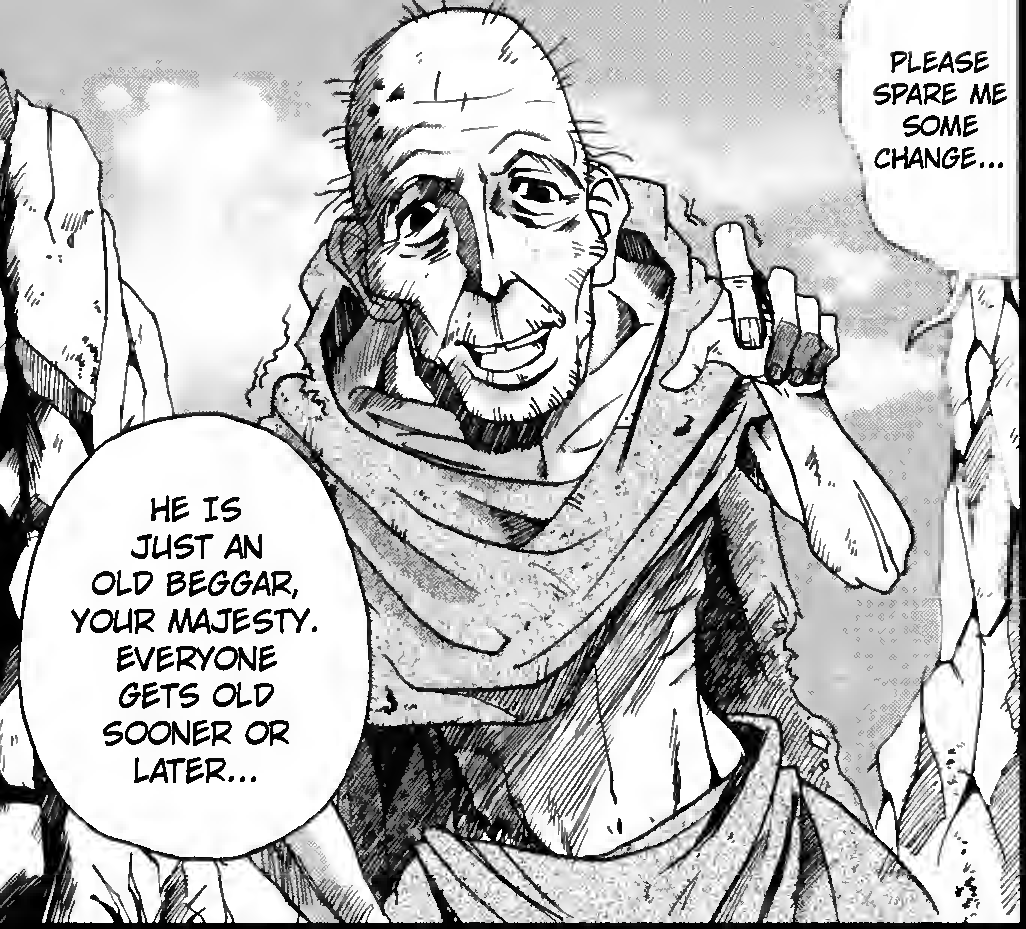
WERE YOU UP HERE LOST IN THE CLOUDS AGAIN THIS WHOLE TIME?

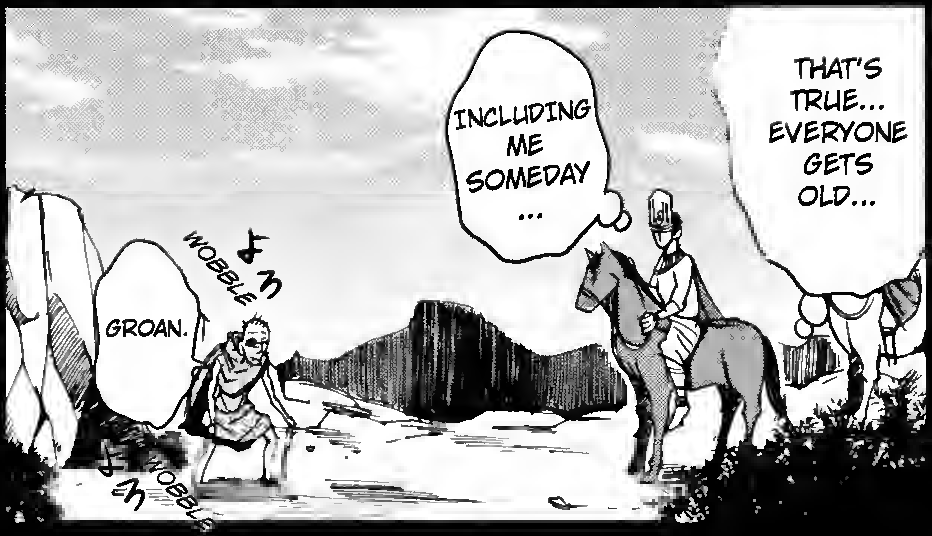

OH, YOU BROUGHT RAHULA WITH YOU.

SIDDHARTHA WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN HE MARRIED YASODHARA. THEY HAD A SON NAMED RAHULA.

BUT TO SIDDHARTHA, WHO WANTED TO BECOME A MONK, A SON WAS NOT SOMETHING HE HAD WANTED.
AND SO HE HAD NAMED HIM "RAHULA", WHICH MEANS "IMPEDIMENT" OR "FETTER".
..

BUT SIDDHARTHA WOULD SOON BE LED INTO MAKING A BIG DECISION...
HUH?
WOBBLE
よろ
WOBBLE
よろ
ONE DAY, WHEN SIDDHARTHA LEFT THE PALACE FROM THE EAST GATE...
OH, THAT IS...
WHO, YOUR MAJESTY?
HEY! WHO ON EARTH IS THAT MAN OVER THERE?


PLEASE SPARE ME SOME CHANGE...
HE IS JUST AN OLD BEGGAR, YOUR MAJESTY. EVERYONE GETS OLD SOONER OR LATER...

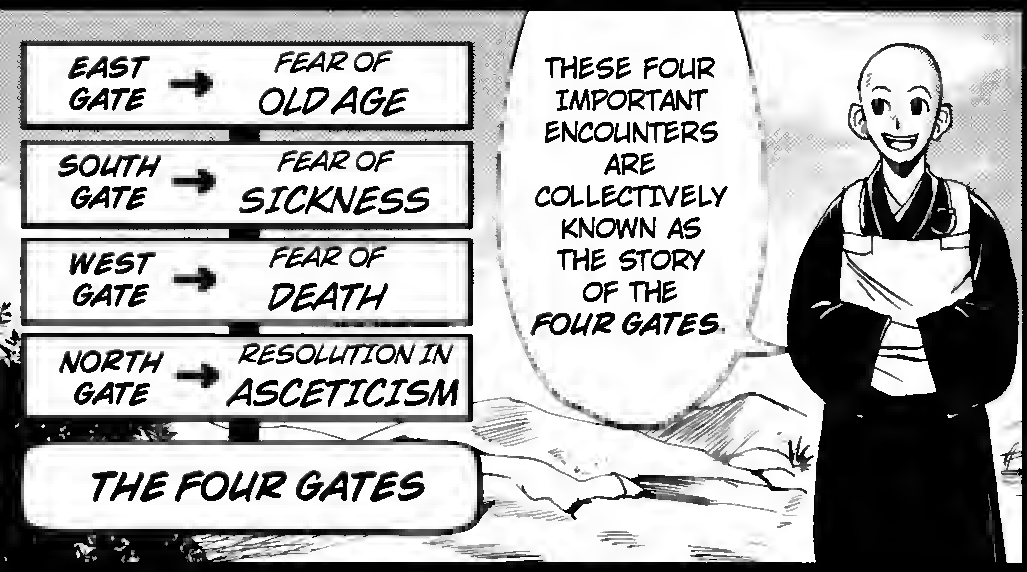

THAT'S TRUE... EVERYONE GETS OLD...
INCLUDING ME SOMEDAY ...
よろ WOBBLE
GROAN.
よろ WOBBLE

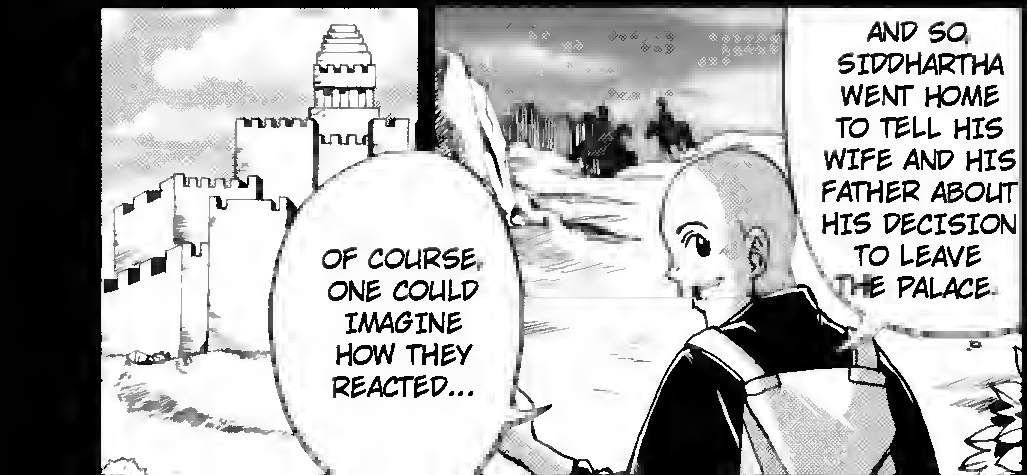
HOW AWFUL! WHAT COULD HE BE SUFFERING FROM?
ON ANOTHER DAY, WHEN SIDDHARTHA WAS LEAVING THE PALACE FROM THE SOUTH GATE...
HIS BODY IS COVERED IN SORES!
COUGH
HE CAME UPON A HELPLESS MAN SUFFERING FROM A TERRIBLE DISEASE.
COUGH

ON YET ANOTHER DAY, WHEN SIDDHARTHA CAME OUT OF THE WEST GATE OF THE PALACE...
GASP... EVERYONE WILL DIE JUST LIKE THAT ONE DAY!
SOB
SOB
HE WAS SHOCKED BY THE SIGHT OF MOURNERS, GRIEVING BESIDE A CORPSE.
AND ON YET ANOTHER DAY, WHEN SIDDHARTHA CAME OUT OF THE NORTH GATE OF THE PALACE...

I HAVE LEFT MY FAMILY IN ORDER TO LIVE AN ASCETIC LIFE, TRANSCENDING SUFFERING AND AGONY.
I AM A MONK...
EXCUSE ME, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE DOING HERE?
HMM...
THIS IS WHAT A MAN LOOKS LIKE WHEN HE IS FREE OF HIS DISTRESS OF GETTING OLD AND OF DYING!
THIS IS IT!
SIDDHARTHA WAS DEEPLY INSPIRED BY HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE MONK.

HENCE, IT WAS THESE FOUR ENCOUNTERS THAT STRENGTHENED SIDDHARTHA'S RESOLVE TO BECOME A MONK.
Y-YES, SIRE!
BACK TO THE PALACE AT ONCE!

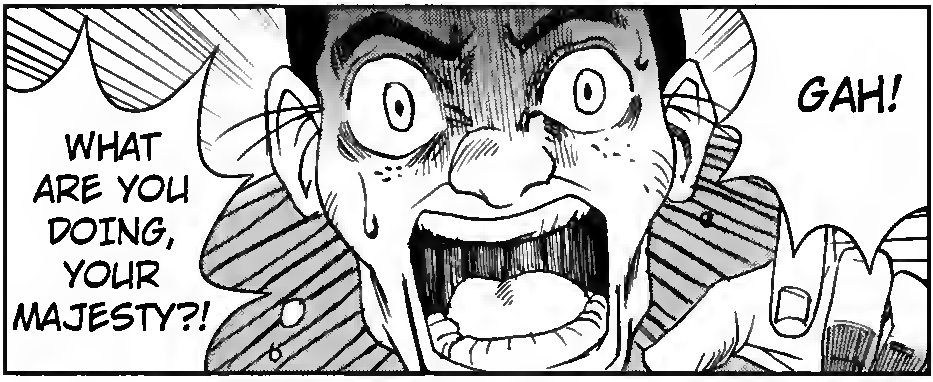

EAST GATE → FEAR OF OLD AGE
SOUTH GATE → FEAR OF SICKNESS
WEST GATE → FEAR OF DEATH
NORTH GATE → RESOLUTION IN ASCETICISM
THE FOUR GATES
THESE FOUR IMPORTANT ENCOUNTERS ARE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE STORY OF THE FOUR GATES.

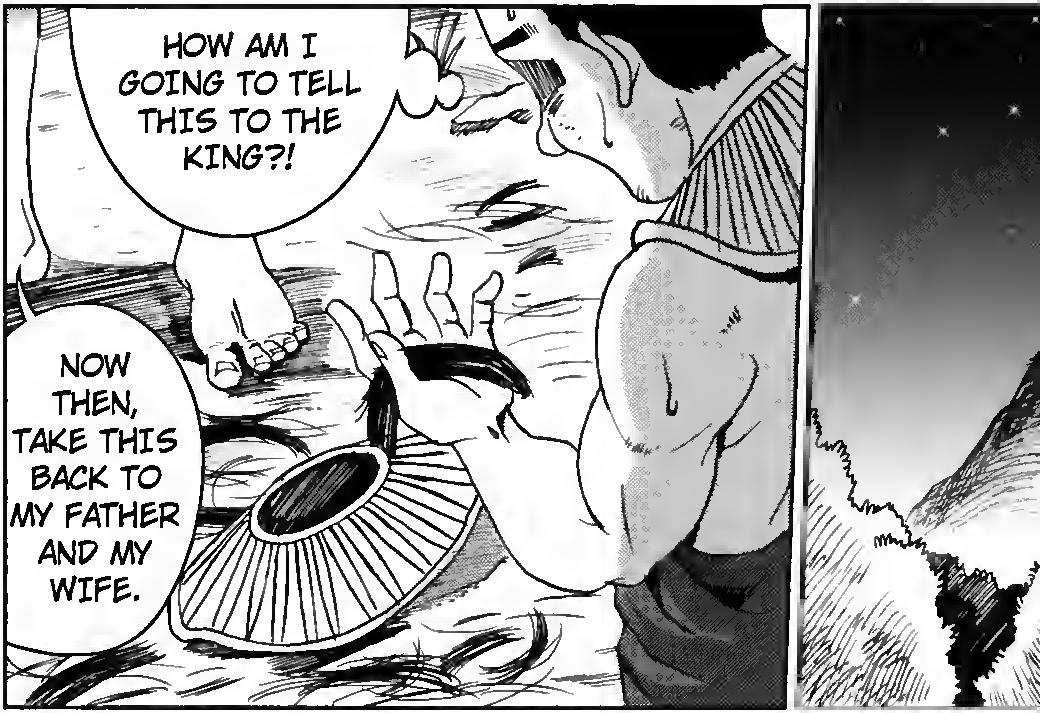

OF COURSE, ONE COULD IMAGINE HOW THEY REACTED...
AND SO, SIDDHARTHA WENT HOME TO TELL HIS WIFE AND HIS FATHER ABOUT HIS DECISION TO LEAVE THE PALACE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE THE PRINCE OF THE SHAKYA TRIBE?!
YOU HAVE A DUTY TO BUILD THIS KINGDOM AFTER I AM GONE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHAT IS THERE TO GAIN BY ABANDONING YOUR NOBLE LIFESTYLE TO BECOME A MONK?!
I AM DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO OVERCOME FEARS OF DEATH AND SICKNESS, THE SUFFERING FOR ALL PEOPLE.
FATHER, I AM NOT DOING THIS FOR ANY MATERIAL GAIN...

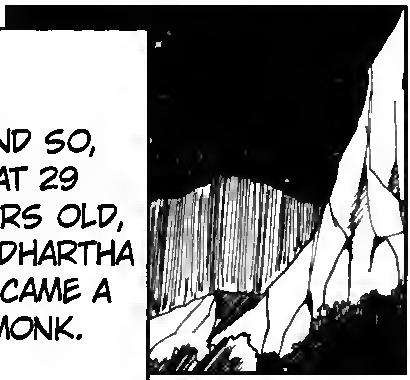
NRRGH!
DON'T YOU WALK AWAY, SIDDHARTHA !!! I'M NOT FINISHED !
EXCUSE ME, FATHER ...
SWISH
FOOTSTEP
THIS CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS, BUT SIDDHARTHA WOULD NOT BE SWAYED.
IN THE END, HE LEFT HIS FAMILY AND HIS RIGHT TO THE THRONE...
CLOP
CLOP

AH, THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S ONE LAST THING...
IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE...
ARE YOU REALLY DOING THIS?
YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE. SORRY FOR YOUR TROUBLES.

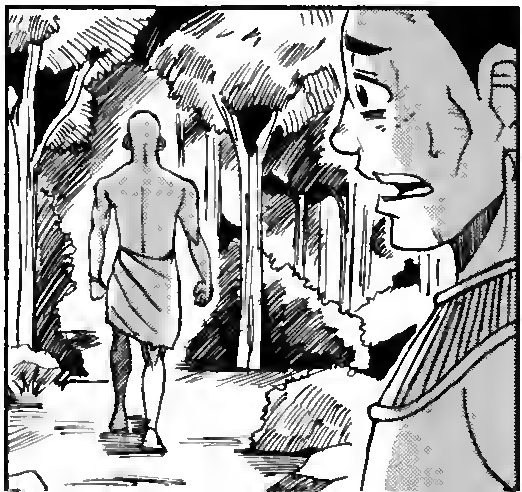

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOUR MAJESTY?!
GAH!

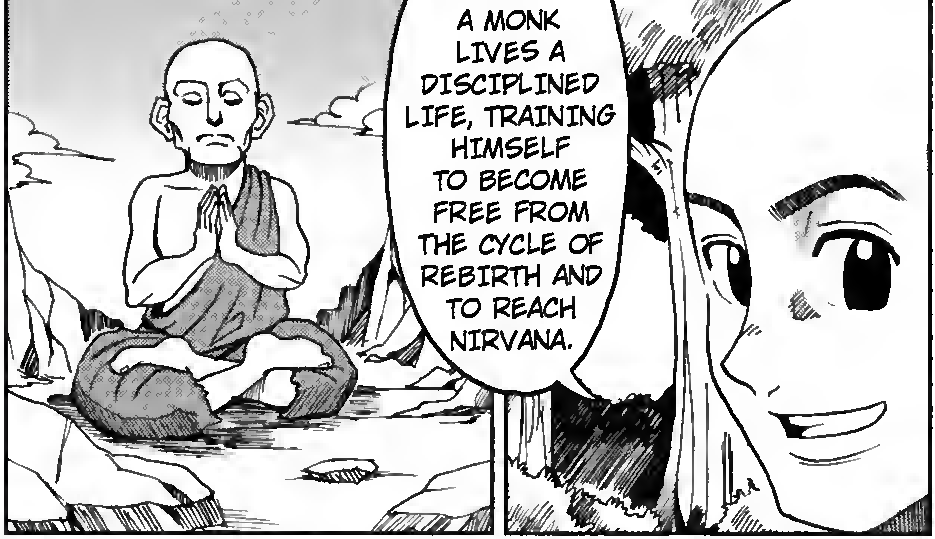

HOW AM I GOING TO TELL THIS TO THE KING?!
NOW THEN, TAKE THIS BACK TO MY FATHER AND MY WIFE.

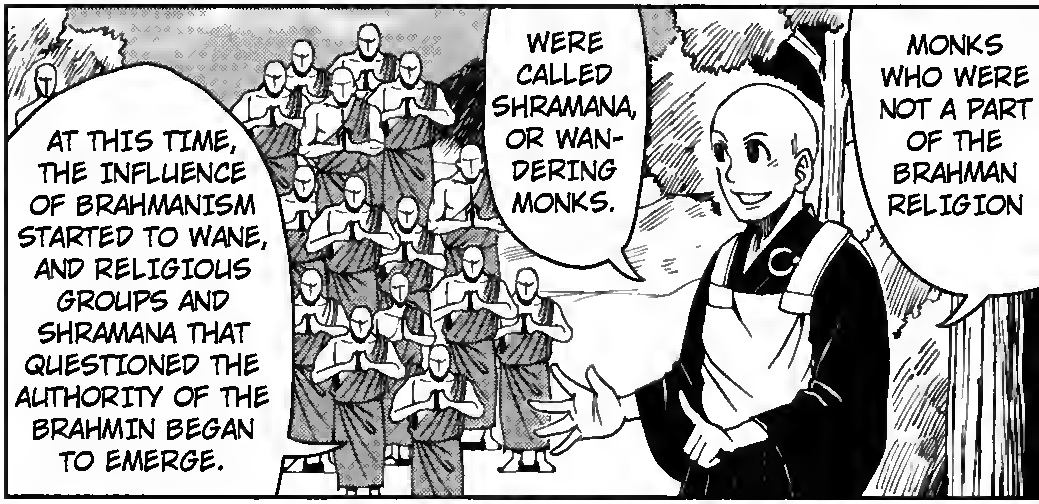
NOW THAT I AM A MONK, THOSE THINGS ARE OF NO USE TO ME.
THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE. PLEASE TELL EVERYONE AT THE PALACE THAT I WISH THEM WELL.

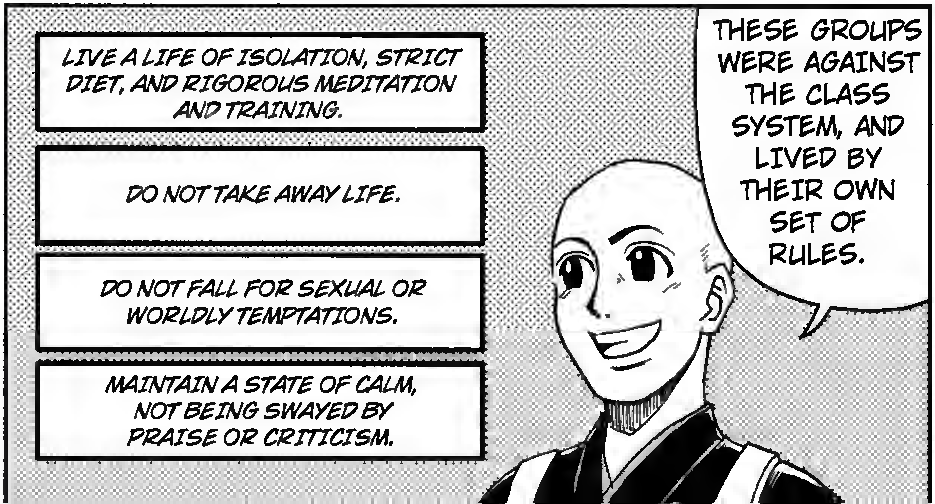


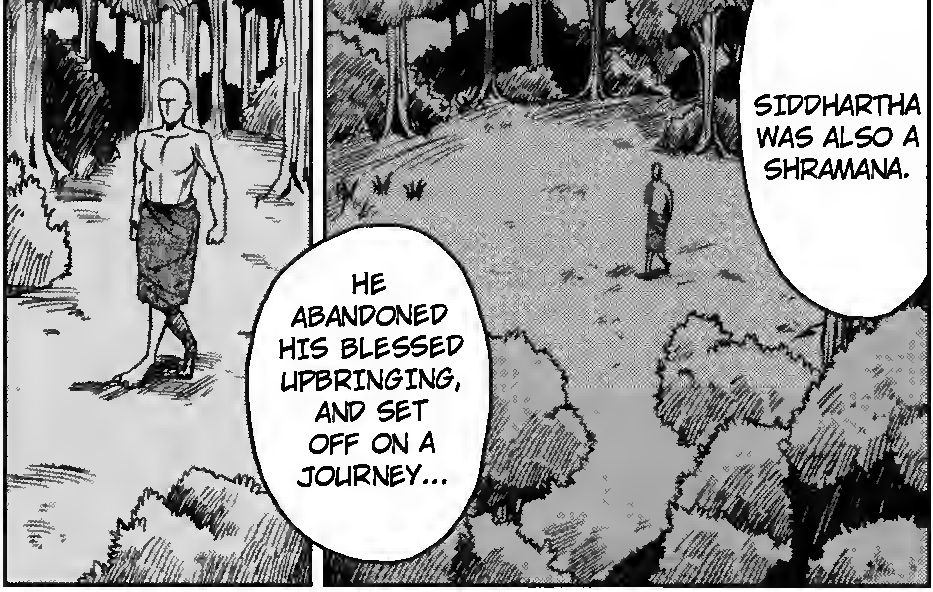
AND SO, AT 29 YEARS OLD, SIDDHARTHA BECAME A MONK.

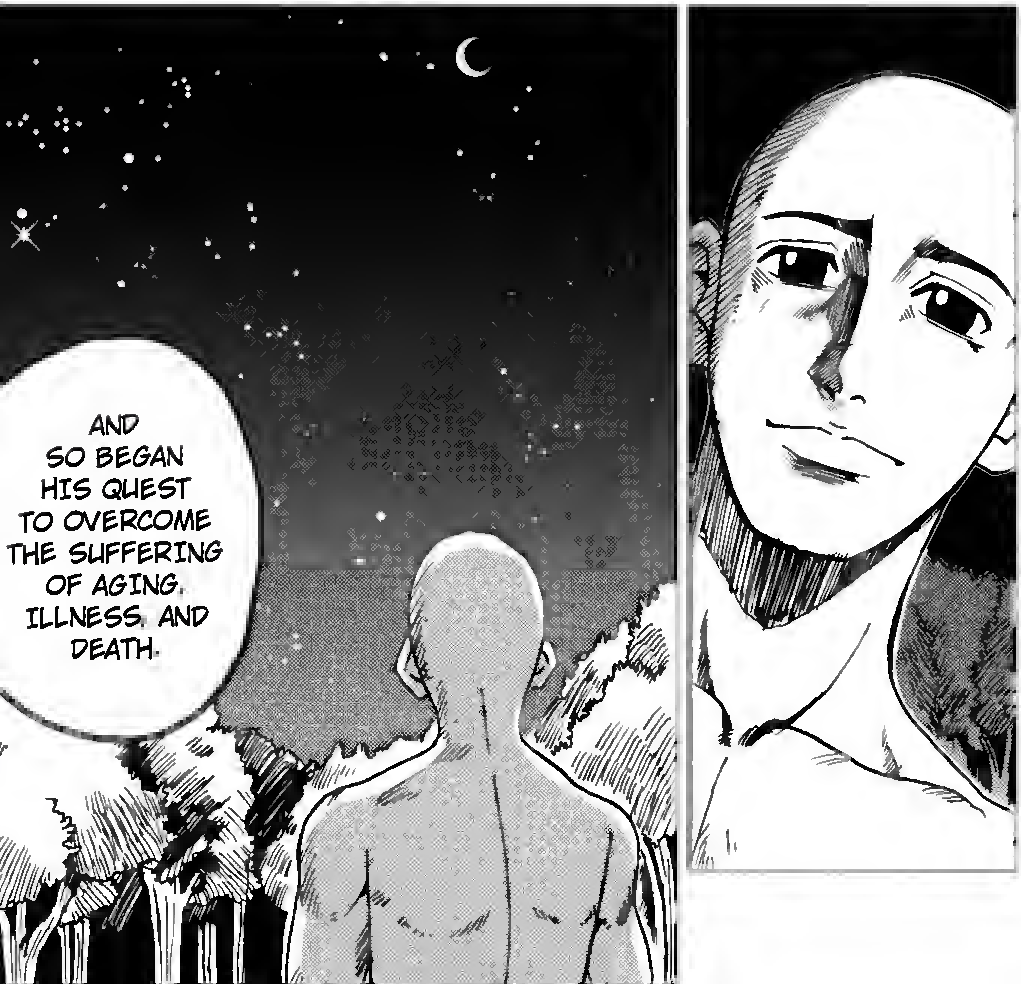


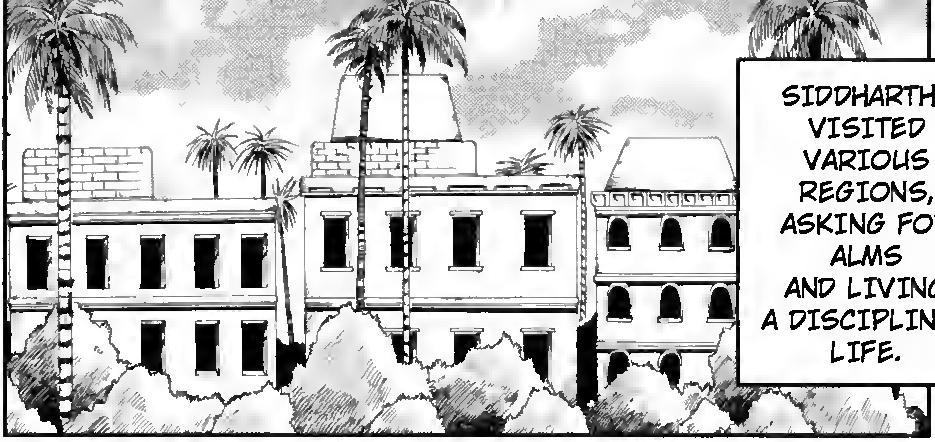

A MONK LIVES A DISCIPLINED LIFE, TRAINING HIMSELF TO BECOME FREE FROM THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH AND TO REACH NIRVANA.

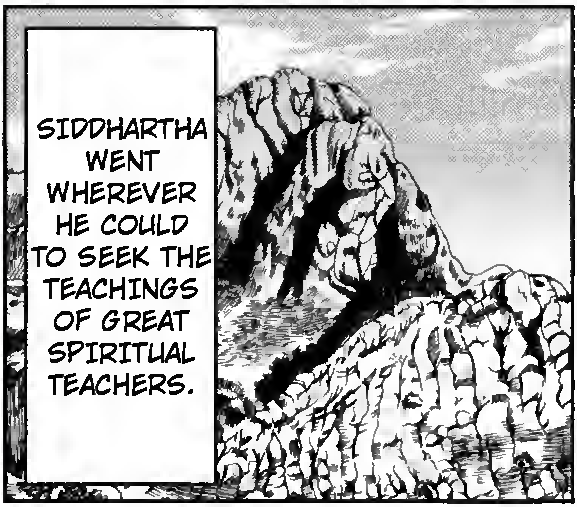

AT THIS TIME, THE INFLUENCE OF BRAHMANISM STARTED TO WANE, AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND SHRAMANA THAT QUESTIONED THE AUTHORITY OF THE BRAHMIN BEGAN TO EMERGE.
WERE CALLED SHRAMANA, OR WANDERING MONKS.
MONKS WHO WERE NOT A PART OF THE BRAHMAN RELIGION

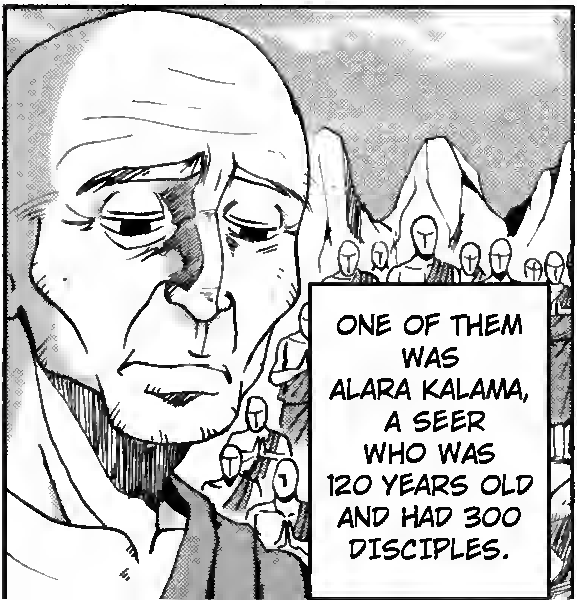

LIVE A LIFE OF ISOLATION, STRICT DIET, AND RIGOROUS MEDITATION AND TRAINING.
DO NOT TAKE AWAY LIFE.
DO NOT FALL FOR SEXUAL OR WORLDLY TEMPTATIONS.
MAINTAIN A STATE OF CALM, NOT BEING SWAYED BY PRAISE OR CRITICISM.
THESE GROUPS WERE AGAINST THE CLASS SYSTEM, AND LIVED BY THEIR OWN SET OF RULES.

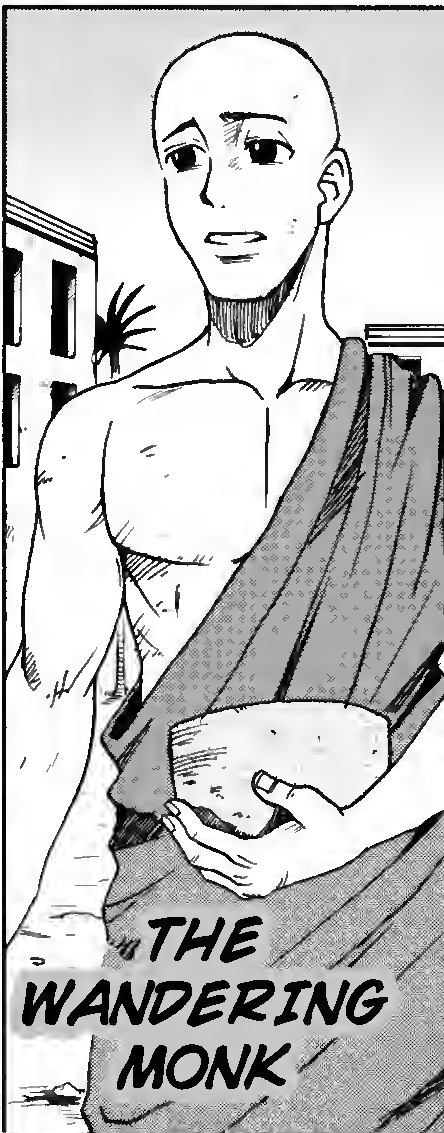

SIDDHARTHA WAS ALSO A SHRAMANA.
HE ABANDONED HIS BLESSED UPBRINGING, AND SET OFF ON A JOURNEY...


AND SO BEGAN HIS QUEST TO OVERCOME THE SUFFERING OF AGING, ILLNESS, AND DEATH.

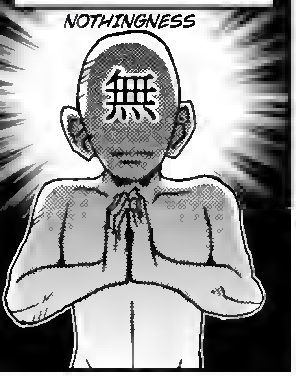

SIDDHARTHA VISITED VARIOUS REGIONS, ASKING FOR ALMS AND LIVING A DISCIPLINED LIFE.

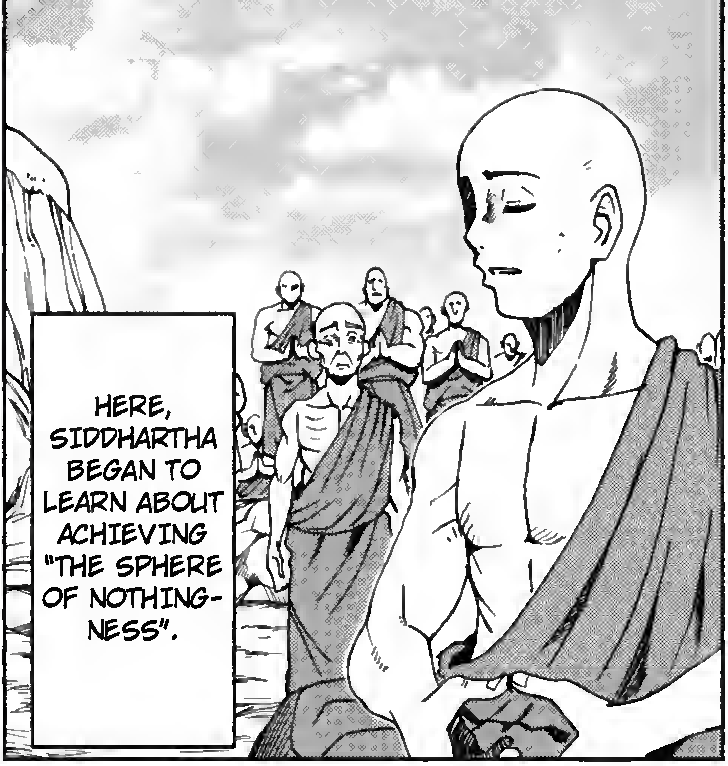

SIDDHARTHA WENT WHEREVER HE COULD TO SEEK THE TEACHINGS OF GREAT SPIRITUAL TEACHERS.

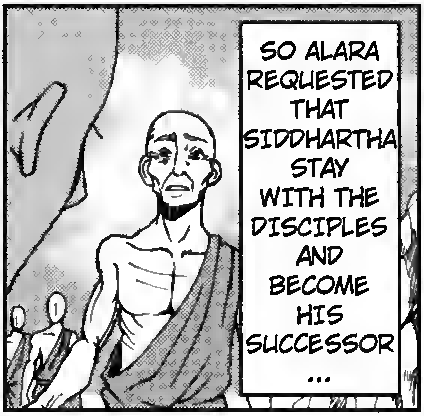

ONE OF THEM WAS ALARA KALAMA, A SEER WHO WAS 120 YEARS OLD AND HAD 300 DISCIPLES.

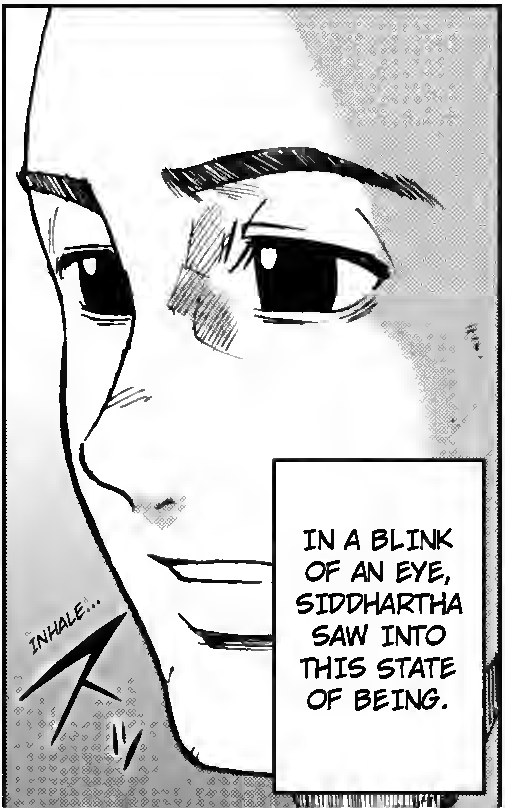

THE WANDERING MONK

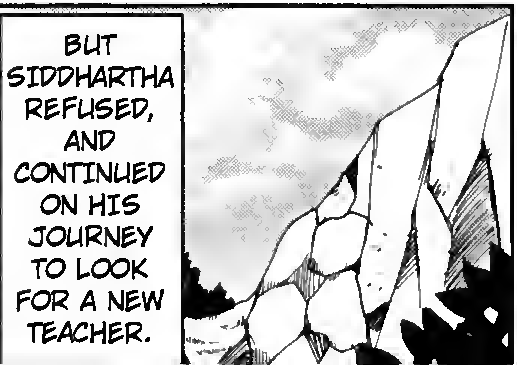
THE SPHERE OF NOTHINGNESS WAS THE STATE OF MIND IN WHICH ALL WORLDLY DESIRES WERE ABANDONED.

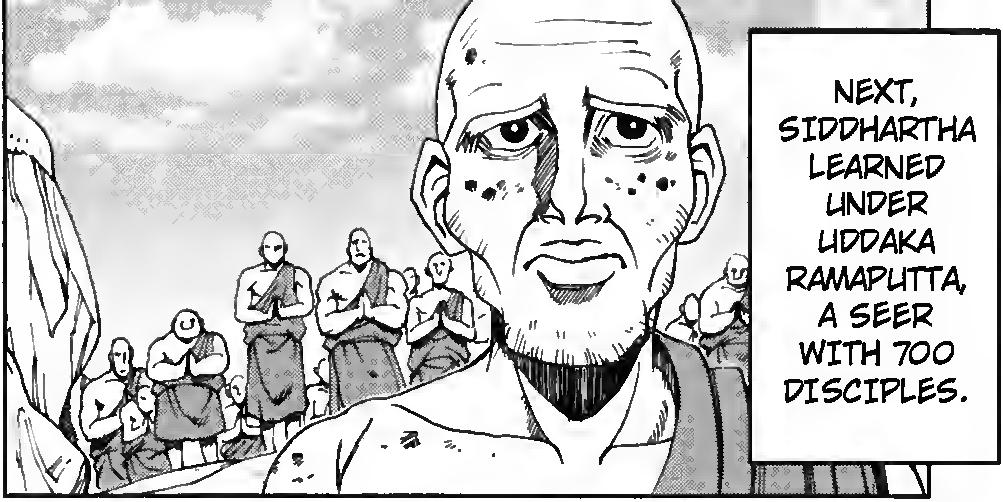


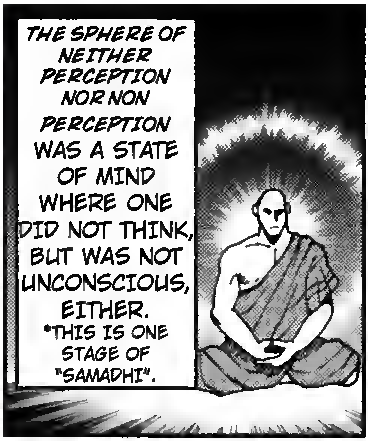


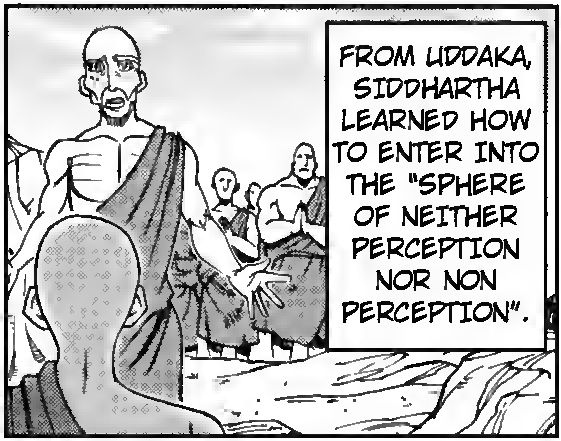




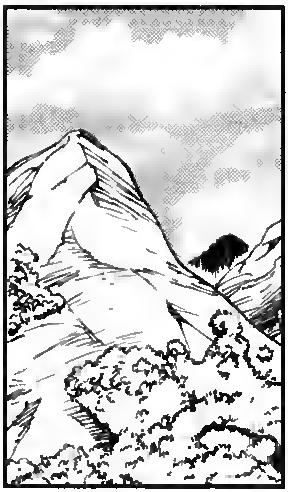


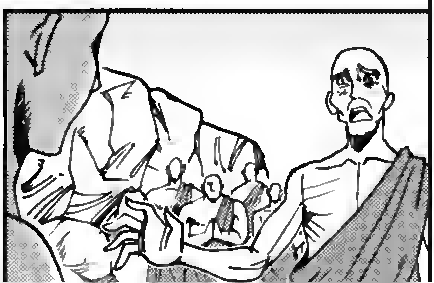



THE SPHERE OF NEITHER PERCEPTION NOR NON PERCEPTION WAS A STATE OF MIND WHERE ONE DID NOT THINK, BUT WAS NOT UNCONSCIOUS, EITHER.
*THIS IS ONE STAGE OF "SAMADHI".



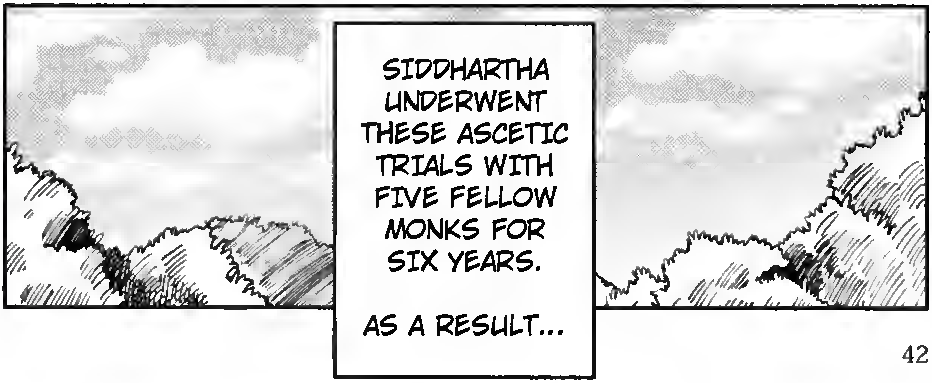
*SAMADHI: A STATE OF DEEP MEDITATION AND MENTAL FOCUS

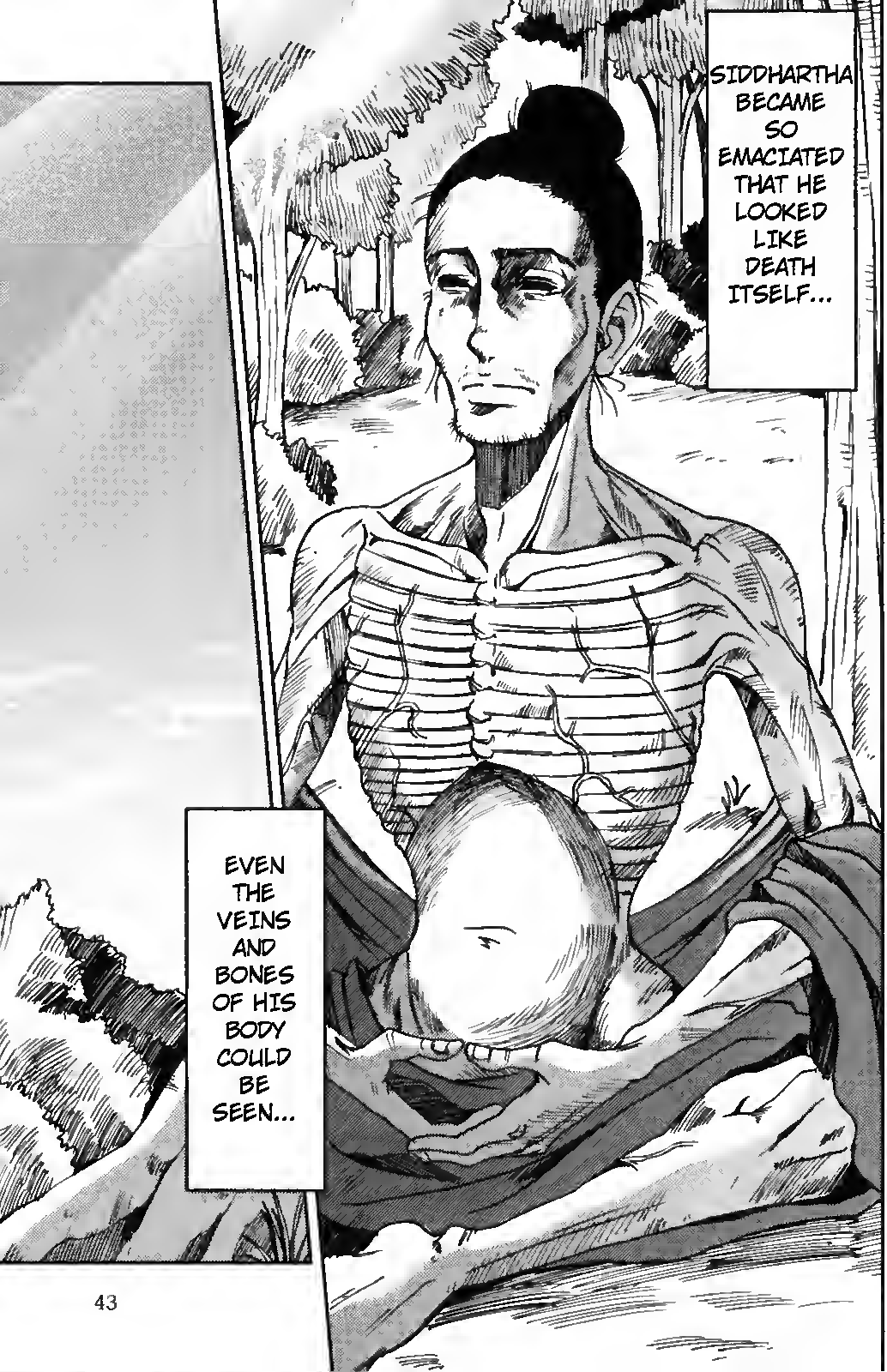




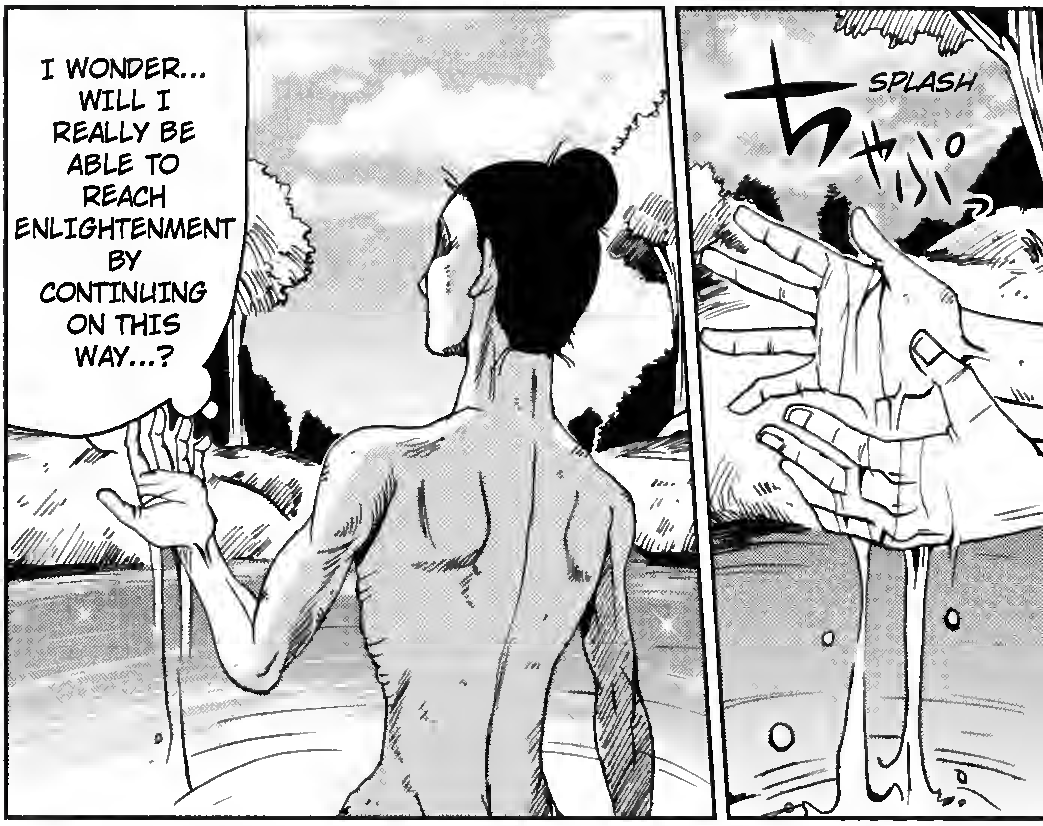
I HAVE LEARNED MUCH FROM MY TWO TEACHERS ABOUT THE STATE OF MIND THAT CAN BE ATTAINED THROUGH MEDITATION.
BUT THE TRUTH THAT I AM AFTER IS NOT A TEMPORARY STATE OF MIND THAT IS ACHIEVED THROUGH MEDITATIVE SKILL.
MAYBE MEDITATION ISN'T THE ANSWER. PERHAPS THE KEY IS IN LIVING A LIFE OF STRICT DISCIPLINE.
AND SO, SIDDHARTHA BELIEVED THAT ASCETICISM WOULD LEAD HIM TO THE TRUTH.
SO HE SET FOOT INTO "THE FOREST OF ASCETIC TRIALS", A PLACE WHERE MANY SHRAMANAS ENDURE THEIR TRAINING.

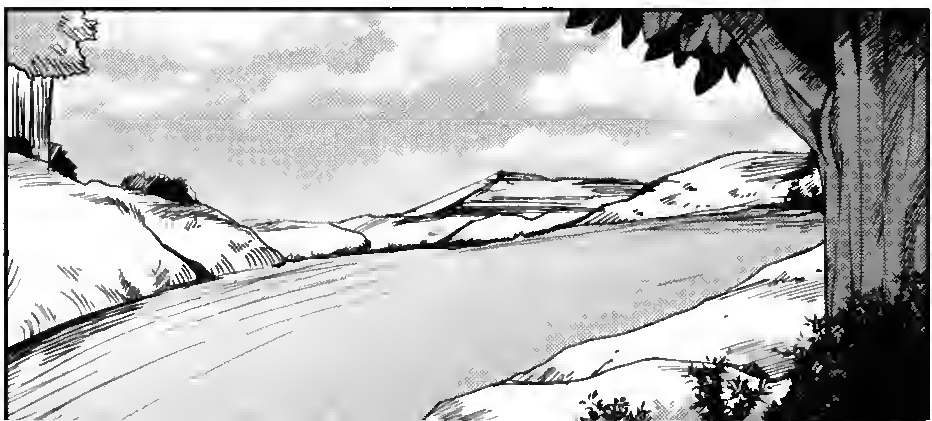
FACING THE BEATING SUN FOR A LONG TIME
SCORCH
SCORCH
ASCETICISM INVOLVES SUBJECTING ONE'S OWN BODY TO SEVERE AND PAINFUL CONDITIONS, THEREBY ACHIEVING A HIGHER SPIRITUAL STATE.
STAYING CALM IN DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES
GLUB
GLUB
HOLDING ONE'S BREATH UNDER WATER FOR A LONG TIME
EVEN ASCETIC TRIALS COME IN MANY FORMS, AND SIDDHARTHA WENT THROUGH FAR MORE SEVERE TRIALS THAN OTHER MONKS.
FASTING, WITH ONLY A GRAIN OF RICE AND SESAME EACH DAY


SIDDHARTHA UNDERWENT THESE ASCETIC TRIALS WITH FIVE FELLOW MONKS FOR SIX YEARS.
AS A RESULT...


SIDDHARTHA BECAME SO EMACIATED THAT HE LOOKED LIKE DEATH ITSELF...
EVEN THE VEINS AND BONES OF HIS BODY COULD BE SEEN...

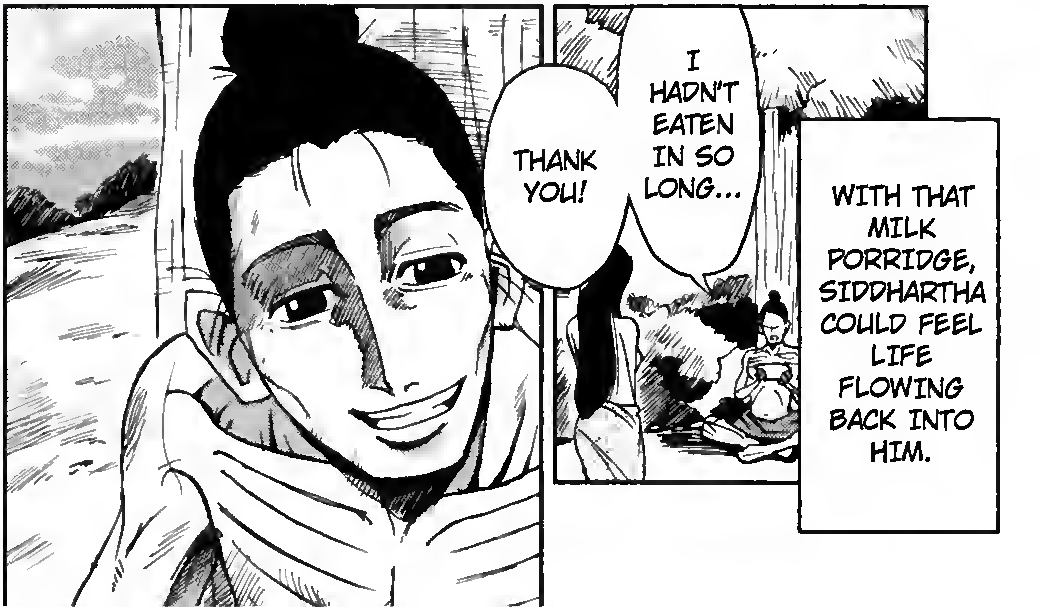
SPLISH
SPLASH

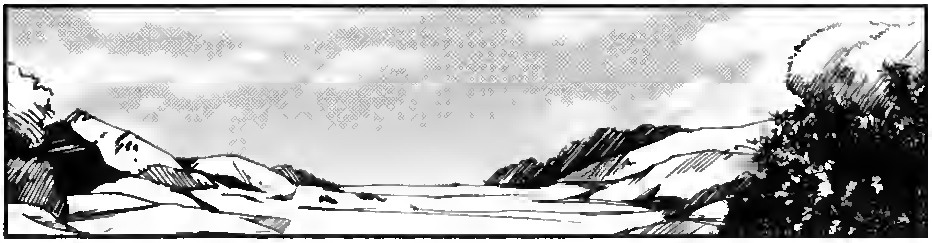

I WONDER... WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO REACH ENLIGHTENMENT BY CONTINUING ON THIS WAY...?
SPLASH

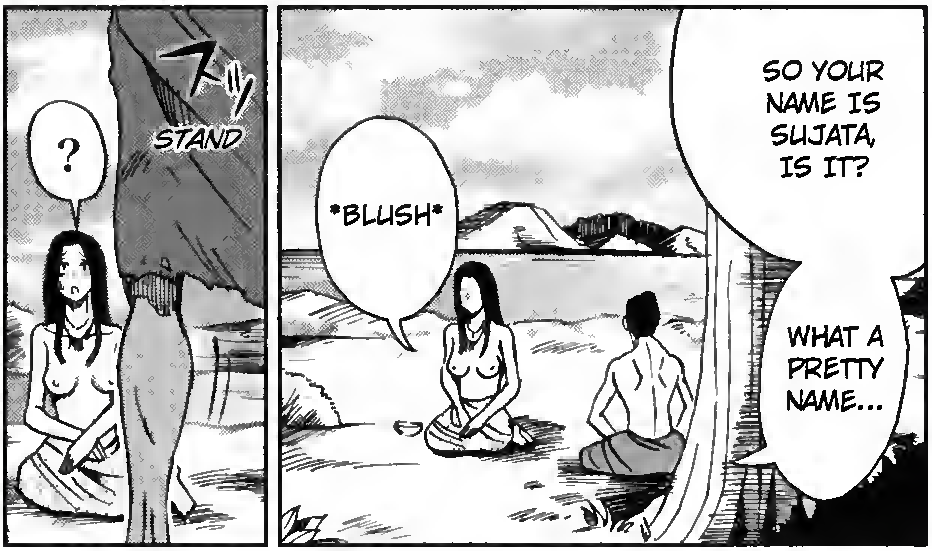


OH, SHRAMANA... YOU LOOK SO WORN OUT...
AFTER CLEANSING HIS BODY, SIDDHARTHA SAT UNDER THE SACRED BANYAN TREE, WHEN A YOUNG GIRL CAME TOWARD HIM...
すっ
IF YOU'D LIKE, PLEASE HAVE THIS...
GULP
THE GIRL'S NAME WAS SUJATA, AND SHE HAD COME TO THE BANYAN TREE TO OFFER UP SOME MILK PORRIDGE.

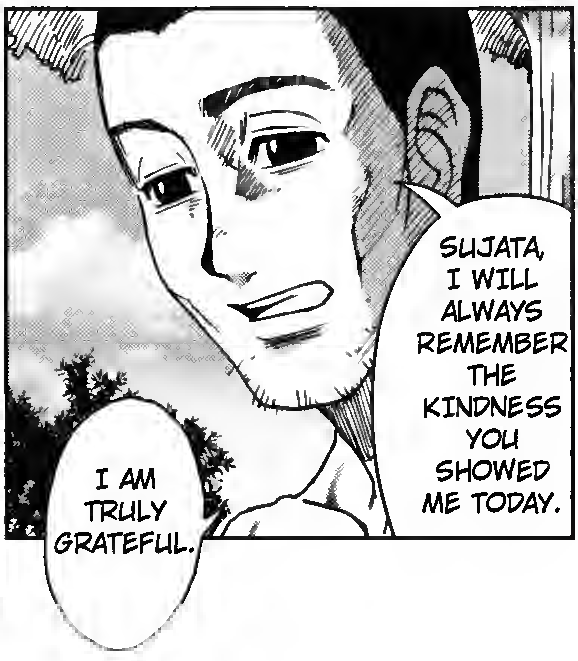
GULP
ゴクッ
ゴクッ
GULP

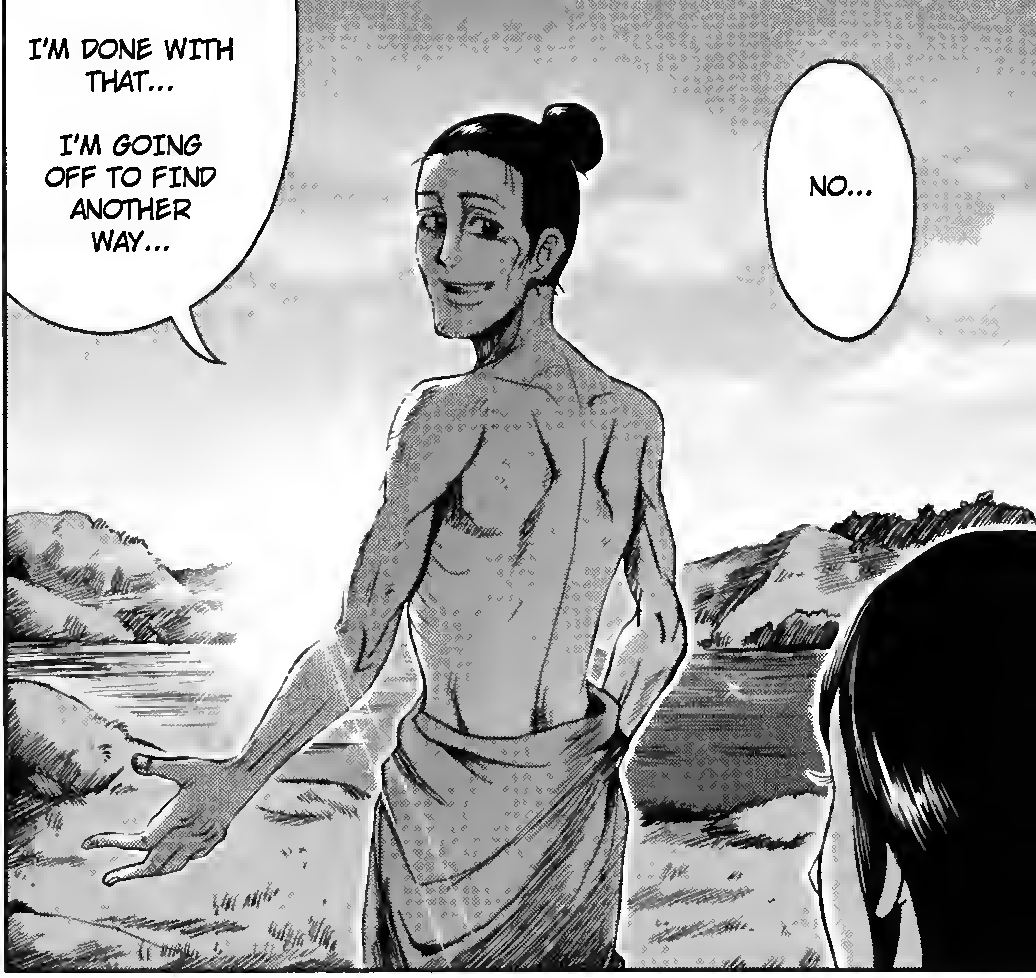

THANK YOU!
I HADN'T EATEN IN SO LONG...
WITH THAT MILK PORRIDGE, SIDDHARTHA COULD FEEL LIFE FLOWING BACK INTO HIM.

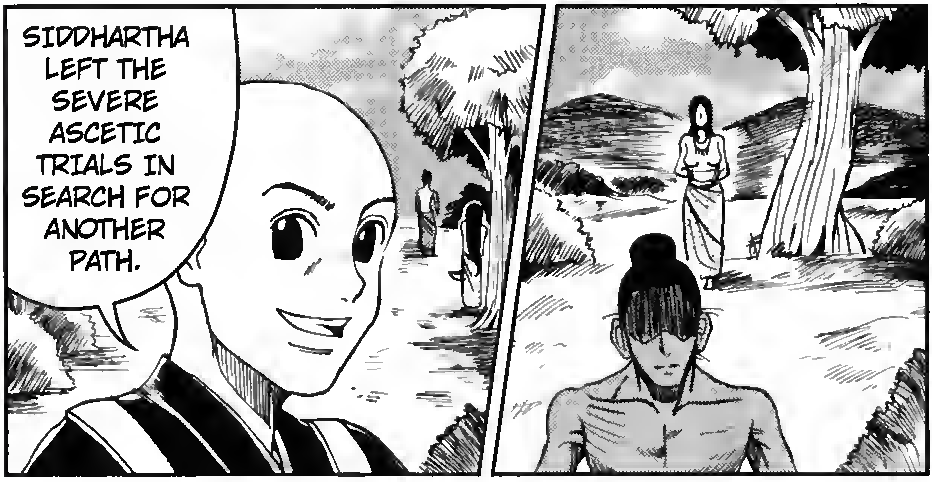



?
スッ
STAND
BLUSH
SO YOUR NAME IS SUJATA, IS IT?
WHAT A PRETTY NAME...

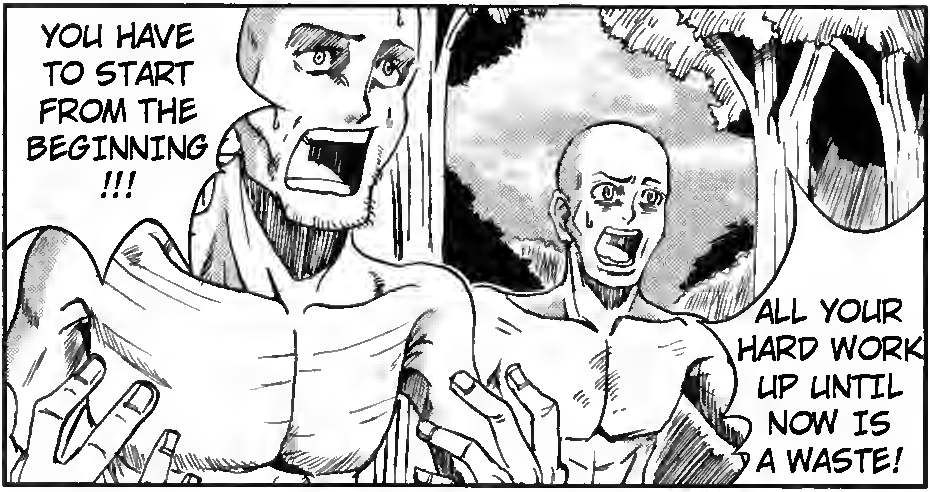
GOING BACK TO DO MORE ASCETIC TRIALS, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT...

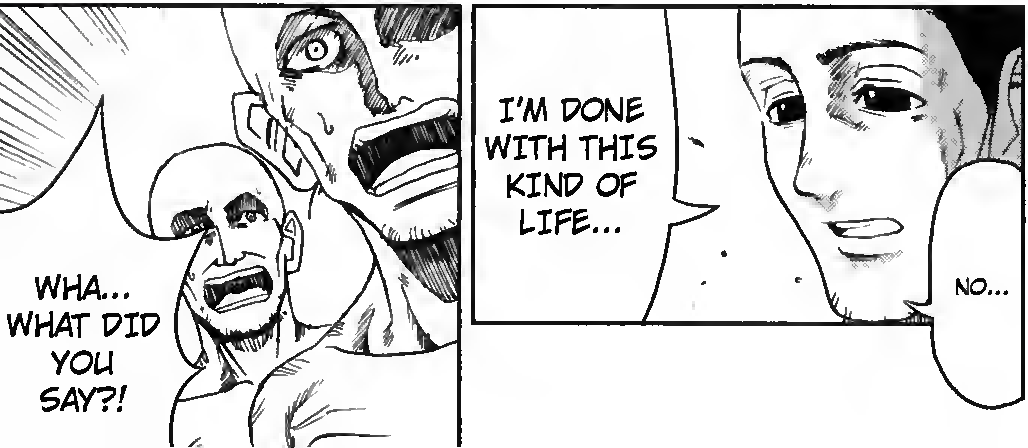

SUJATA, I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE KINDNESS YOU SHOWED ME TODAY.
I AM TRULY GRATEFUL.


I'M DONE WITH THAT...
I'M GOING OFF TO FIND ANOTHER WAY...
NO...


SIDDHARTHA LEFT THE SEVERE ASCETIC TRIALS IN SEARCH FOR ANOTHER PATH.

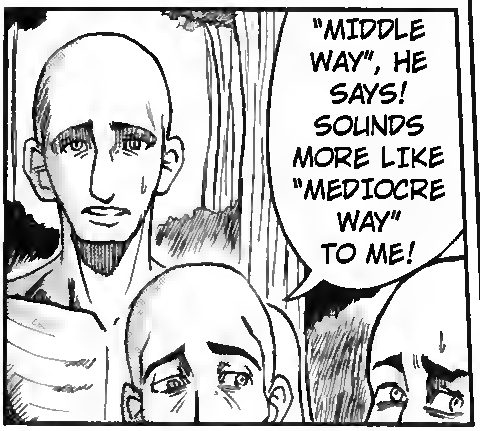
SIDDHARTHA!
WE SAW YOU!
WHY DID YOU ACCEPT FOOD FROM THAT GIRL?!
SIDDHARTHA WENT TO HIS FIVE FELLOW MONKS TO TELL THEM ABOUT HIS DECISION...


YOU HAVE TO START FROM THE BEGINNING !!!
ALL YOUR HARD WORK UP UNTIL NOW IS A WASTE!

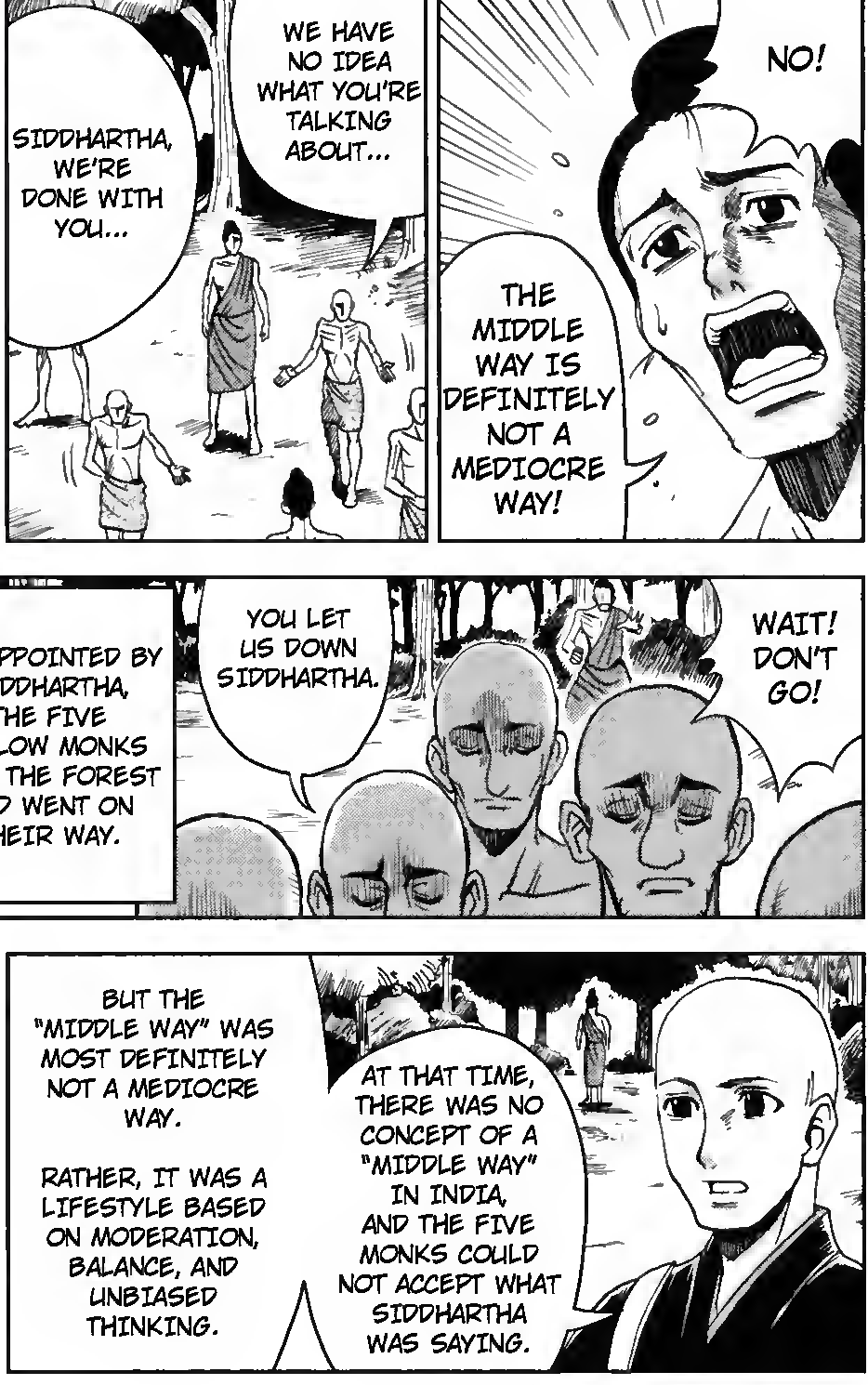

WHA... WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I'M DONE WITH THIS KIND OF LIFE...
NO...

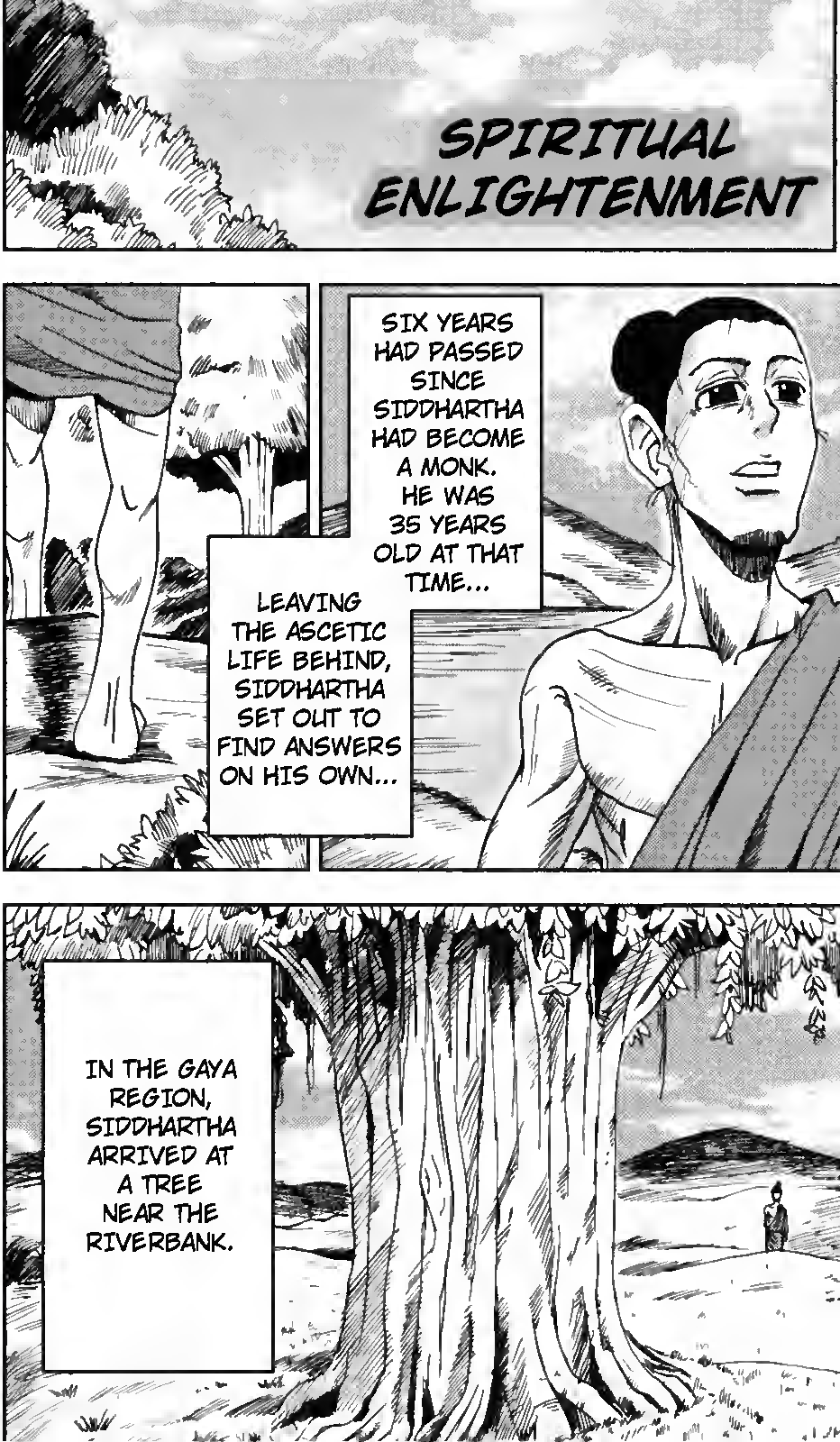
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY...
SO HOW DOES ONE ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT THEN?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! TO QUIT NOW?!

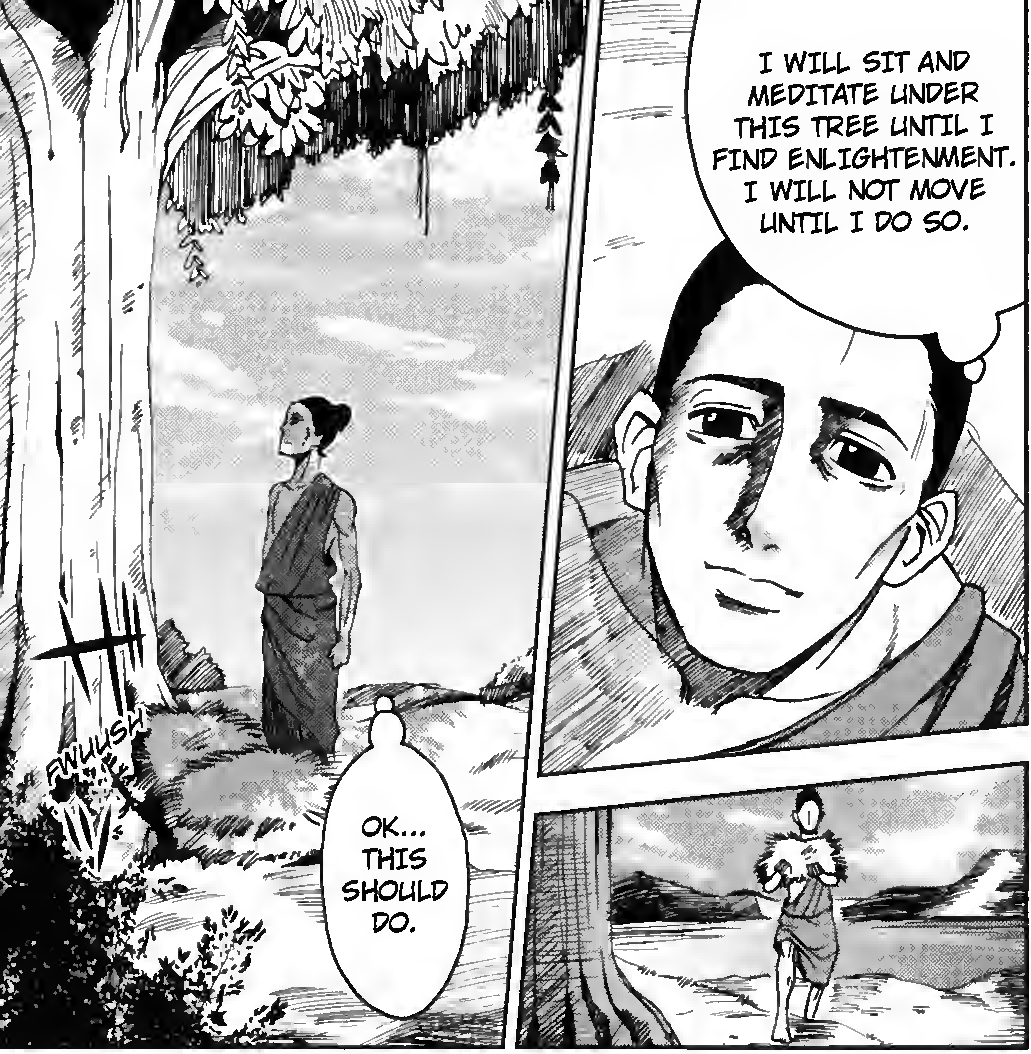
WHAT?! YOU'VE REALLY LOST IT NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?

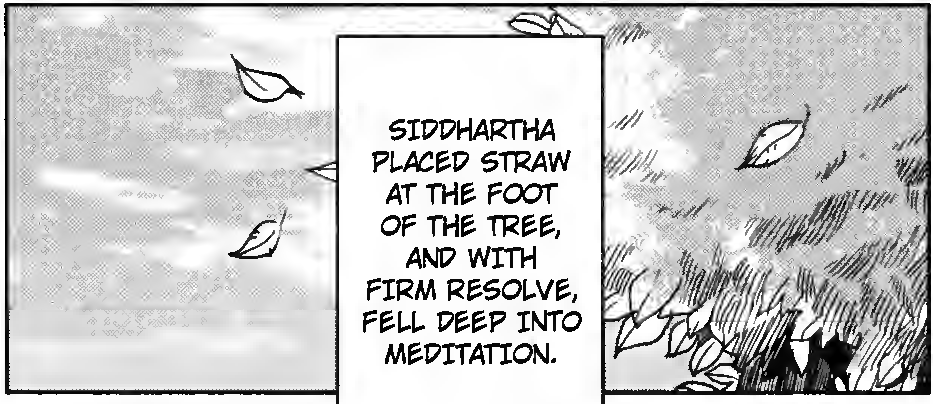

"MIDDLE WAY", HE SAYS! SOUNDS MORE LIKE "MEDIOCRE WAY" TO ME!

I...
I WANT TO FIND A PATH THAT IS NEITHER EASY NOR TORTUROUS. I BELIEVE THERE'S A MIDDLE WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT.


SIDDHARTHA, WE'RE DONE WITH YOU...
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
NO!
THE MIDDLE WAY IS DEFINITELY NOT A MEDIOCRE WAY!
DISAPPOINTED BY SIDDHARTHA, THE FIVE FELLOW MONKS LEFT THE FOREST AND WENT ON THEIR WAY.
YOU LET US DOWN SIDDHARTHA.
WAIT! DON'T GO!
BUT THE "MIDDLE WAY" WAS MOST DEFINITELY NOT A MEDIOCRE WAY.
RATHER, IT WAS A LIFESTYLE BASED ON MODERATION, BALANCE, AND UNBIASED THINKING.
AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS NO CONCEPT OF A "MIDDLE WAY" IN INDIA, AND THE FIVE MONKS COULD NOT ACCEPT WHAT SIDDHARTHA WAS SAYING.

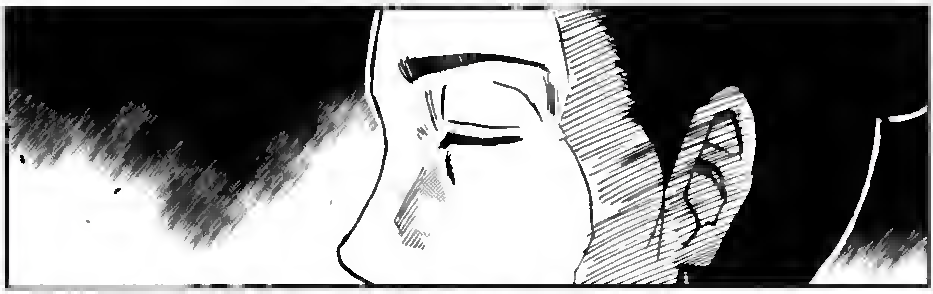

SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT
SIX YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE SIDDHARTHA HAD BECOME A MONK. HE WAS 35 YEARS OLD AT THAT TIME...
LEAVING THE ASCETIC LIFE BEHIND, SIDDHARTHA SET OUT TO FIND ANSWERS ON HIS OWN...
IN THE GAYA REGION, SIDDHARTHA ARRIVED AT A TREE NEAR THE RIVERBANK.

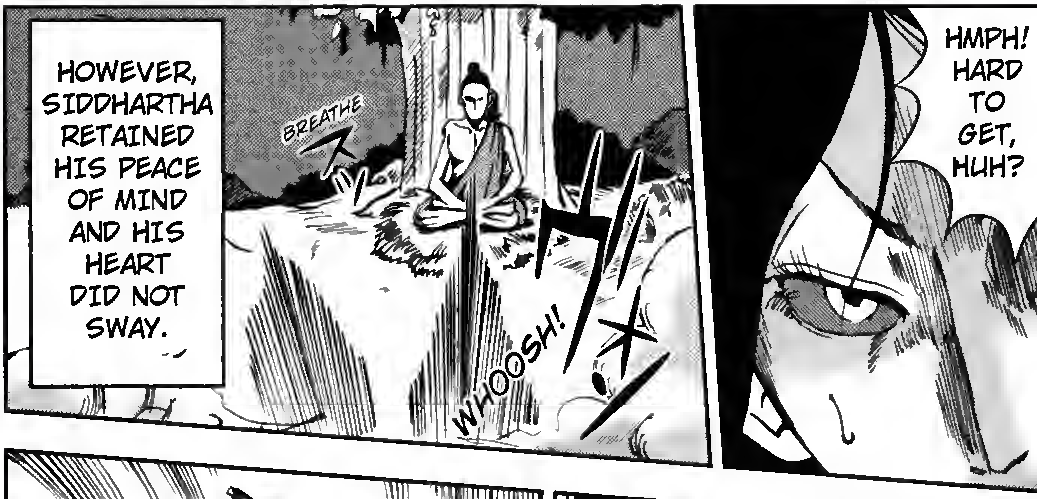

I WILL SIT AND MEDITATE UNDER THIS TREE UNTIL I FIND ENLIGHTENMENT. I WILL NOT MOVE UNTIL I DO SO.
RUSTLE
OK... THIS SHOULD DO.


SIDDHARTHA PLACED STRAW AT THE FOOT OF THE TREE, AND WITH FIRM RESOLVE, FELL DEEP INTO MEDITATION.

AS SIDDHARTHA WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION, THE DARK SPIRIT, MARA, DREW NEAR...
TRYING TO KEEP SIDDHARTHA AWAY FROM THE PATH OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT, MARA TEMPTED HIM WITH ALL SORTS OF VISIONS.
SWISH!
SWOOSH!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ON THIS SPIRITUAL QUEST?
OH SIDDHARTHA...

CREEP...
FLINCH
TAKE A BREAK FROM ALL THAT MEDITATION AND LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, SIDDHARTHA!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH?! C'MON... LIVE A LITTLE!

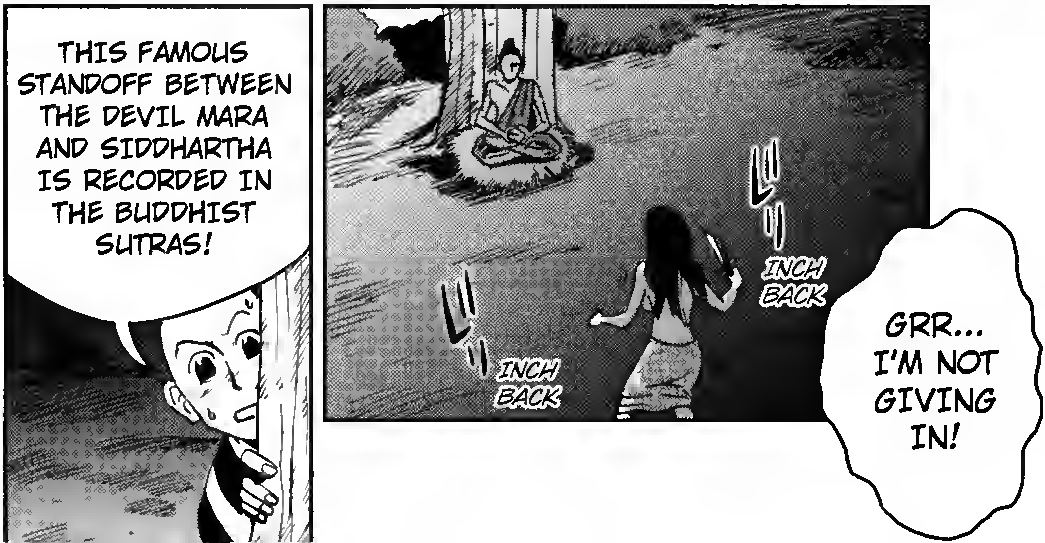


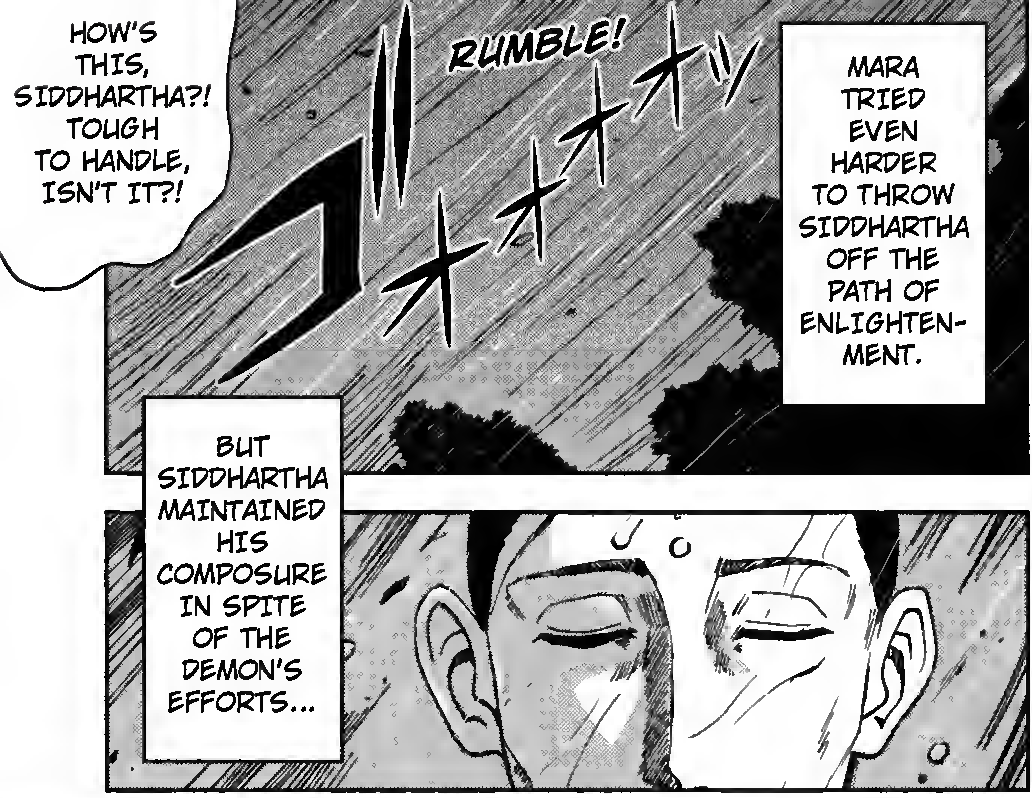

HOWEVER, SIDDHARTHA RETAINED HIS PEACE OF MIND AND HIS HEART DID NOT SWAY.
BREATHE
WHOOSH!
HMPH! HARD TO GET, HUH?

DASH!
HOW'S THIS, THEN?!
CLANG

CLINK
WHAT?! BUT HOW?!

IT'S NO USE. GIVE UP AND LEAVE ME BE, MARA.
GRR!
YOU BASTARD! SIDDHARTHA! WHY DO YOU NOT FALL FOR YOUR SELFISH DESIRES?!
SNARL!
ALL THOSE VISIONS THAT WOULD MAKE MEN TREMBLE...
THEY ARE MEANINGLESS TO ME...
THE ROAD I AM ON IS THE MIDDLE WAY, AND NEITHER PLEASURE NOR FEAR HAVE POWER ON ME.

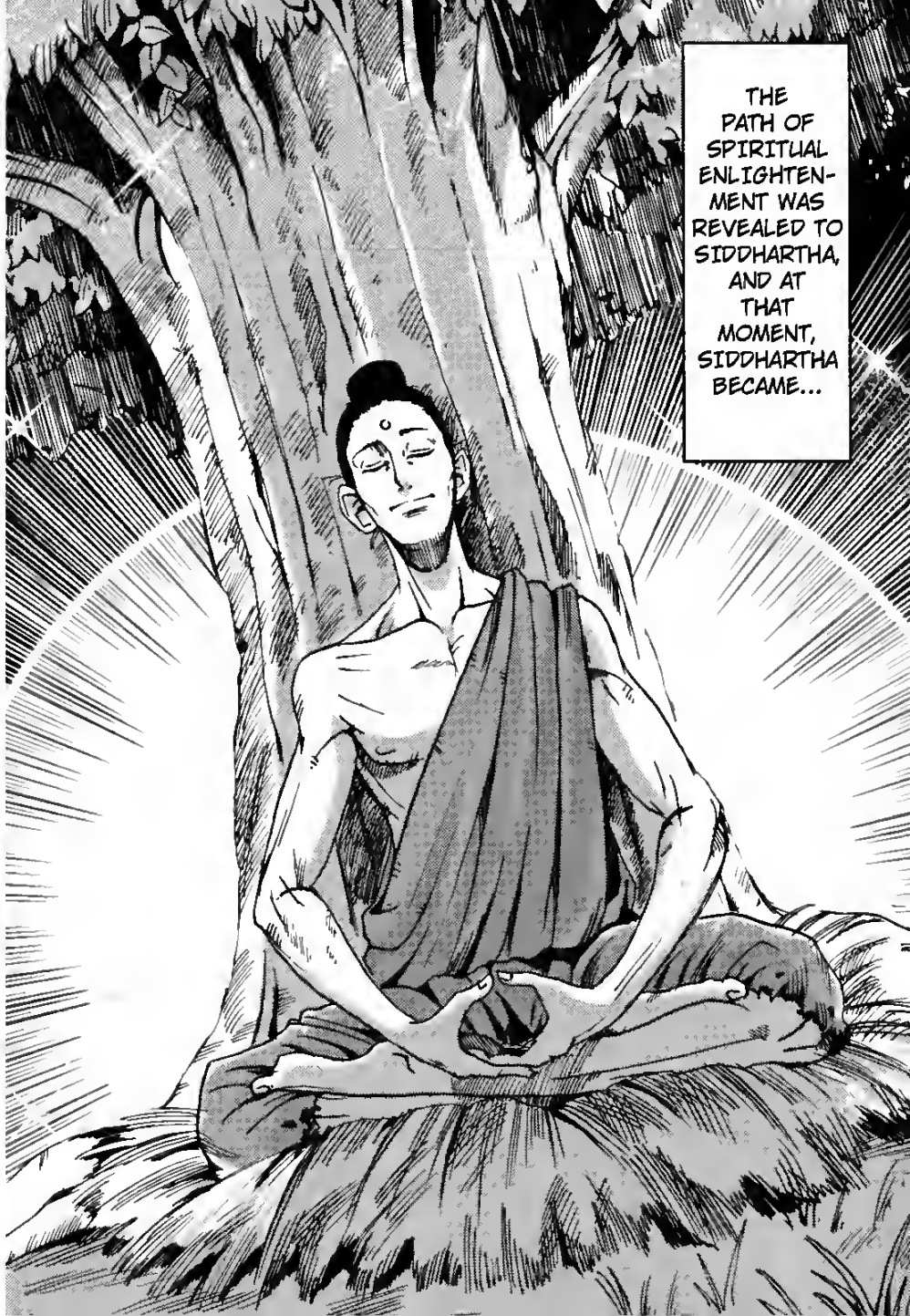

THIS FAMOUS STANDOFF BETWEEN THE DEVIL MARA AND SIDDHARTHA IS RECORDED IN THE BUDDHIST SUTRAS!
INCH BACK
INCH BACK
GRR... I'M NOT GIVING IN!

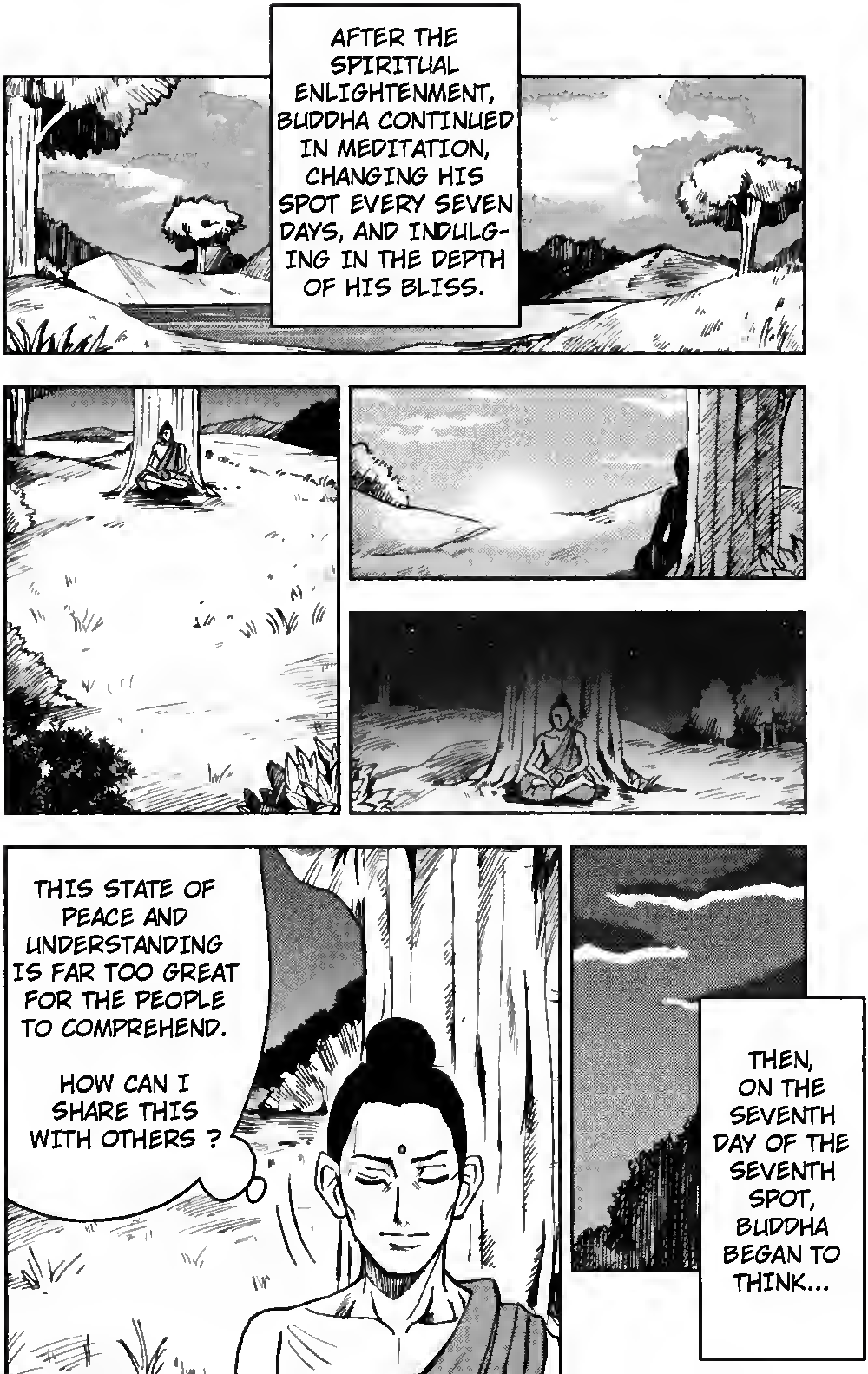

HOW'S THIS, SIDDHARTHA?! TOUGH TO HANDLE, ISN'T IT?!
RUMBLE!
MARA TRIED EVEN HARDER TO THROW SIDDHARTHA OFF THE PATH OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT.
BUT SIDDHARTHA MAINTAINED HIS COMPOSURE IN SPITE OF THE DEMON'S EFFORTS...

WHOOSH
THEN, ONE NIGHT WHEN THE MOON BECAME FULL...
GUST

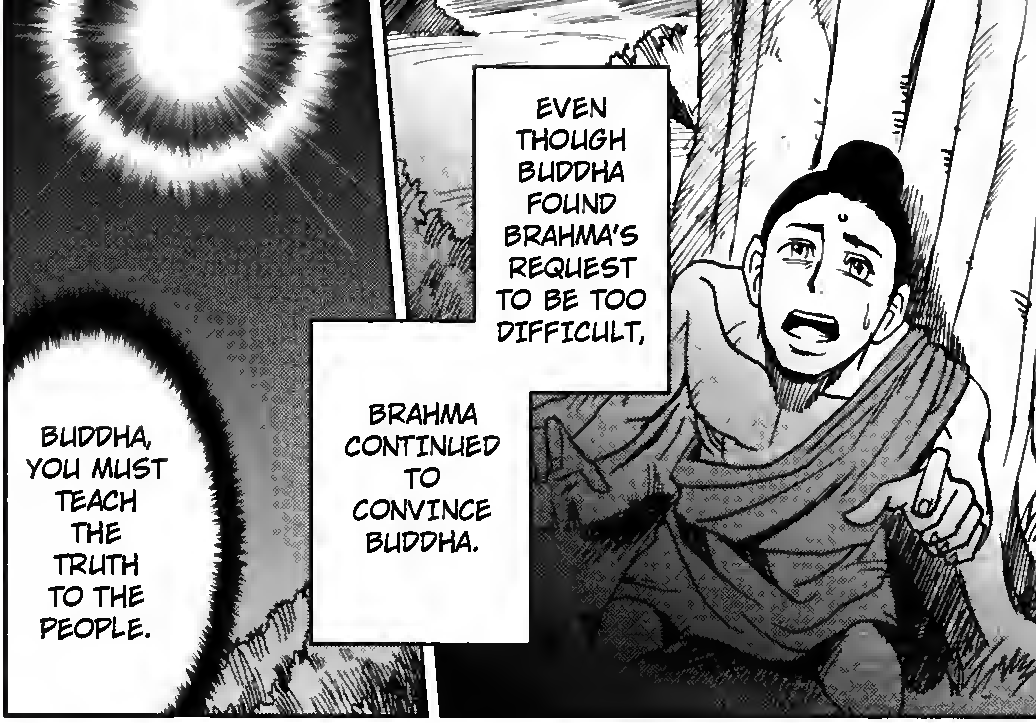
IN THE END, MARA GAVE UP AND DISAP-PEARED INTO THE NIGHT.
FSSSHHH...

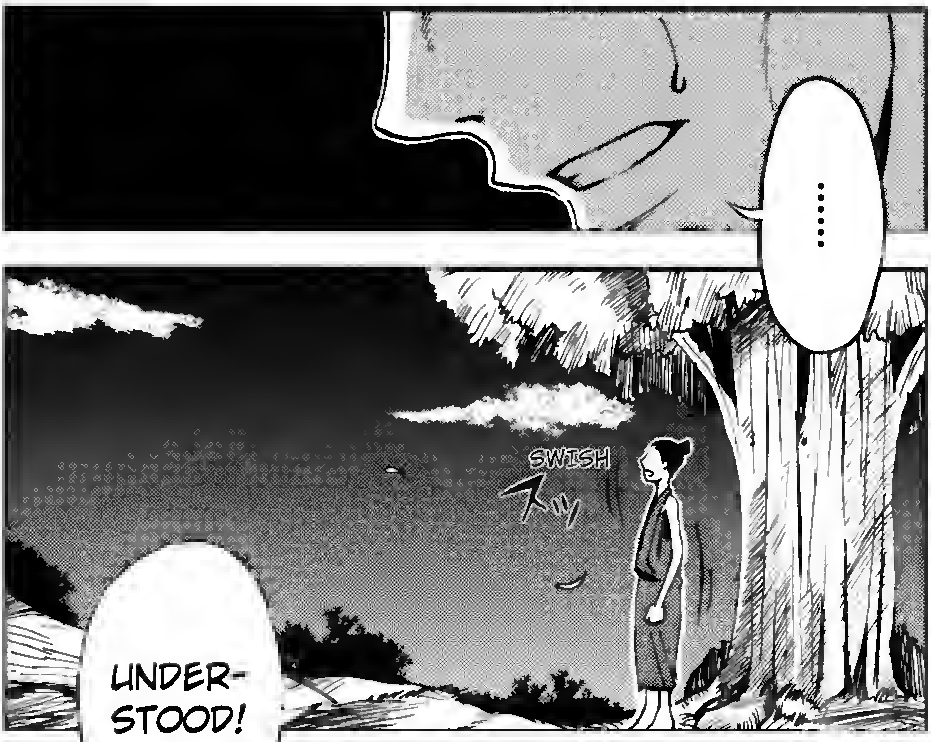
BUDDHA,
THE SPIRITUALLY ENLIGHTENED ONE.

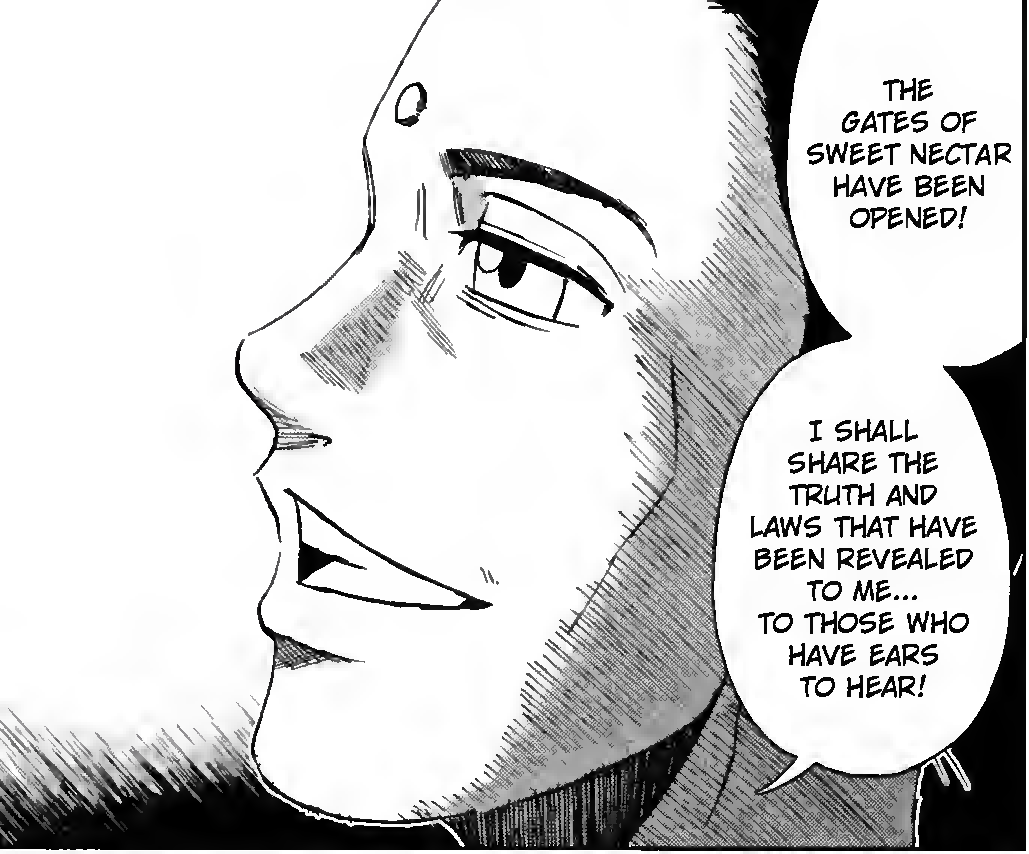

THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTEN-MENT WAS REVEALED TO SIDDHARTHA, AND AT THAT MOMENT, SIDDHARTHA BECAME...

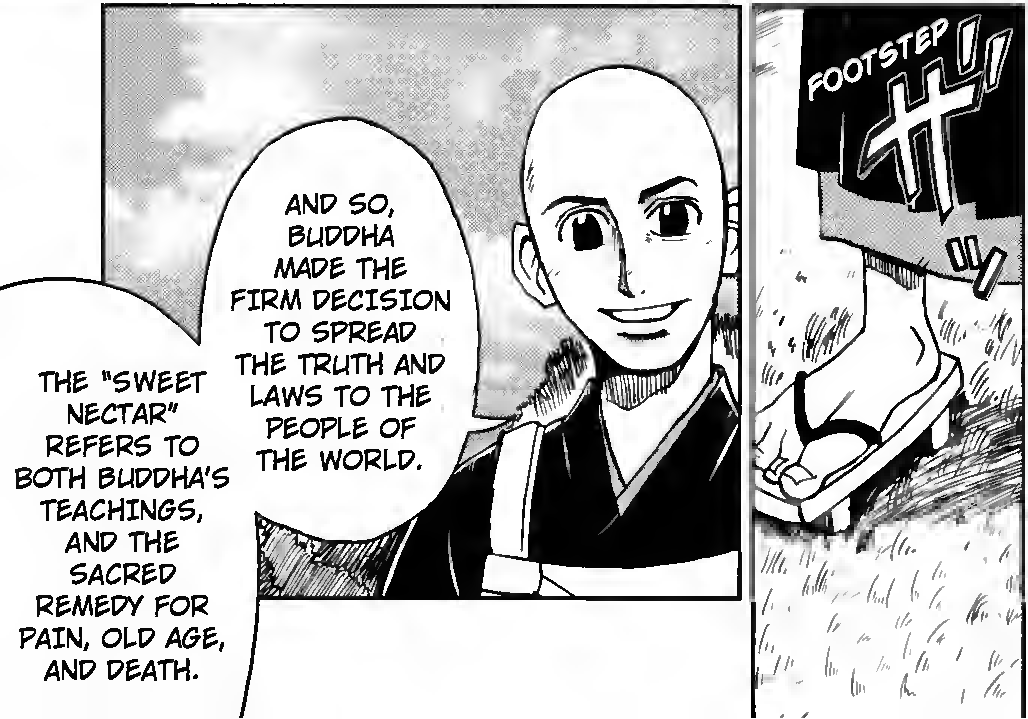

AFTER THE SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, BUDDHA CONTINUED IN MEDITATION, CHANGING HIS SPOT EVERY SEVEN DAYS, AND INDULGING IN THE DEPTH OF HIS BLISS.
THEN, ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH SPOT, BUDDHA BEGAN TO THINK...
THIS STATE OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING IS FAR TOO GREAT FOR THE PEOPLE TO COMPREHEND.
HOW CAN I SHARE THIS WITH OTHERS ?

HMM?
WHOOSH!
UP IN THE HEAVENS, BUDDHA SAW BEFORE HIM THE HOLY GOD OF BRAHMA.
COULD IT BE?!
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, BUT THE TRUTH AND LAWS THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED ARE TOO DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO UNDERSTAND!
GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND TEACH THE GREAT TRUTH THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENLIGHTENED WITH.
BUDDHA, THE AWAKENED ONE...


EVEN THOUGH BUDDHA FOUND BRAHMA'S REQUEST TO BE TOO DIFFICULT,
BRAHMA CONTINUED TO CONVINCE BUDDHA.
BUDDHA, YOU MUST TEACH THE TRUTH TO THE PEOPLE.

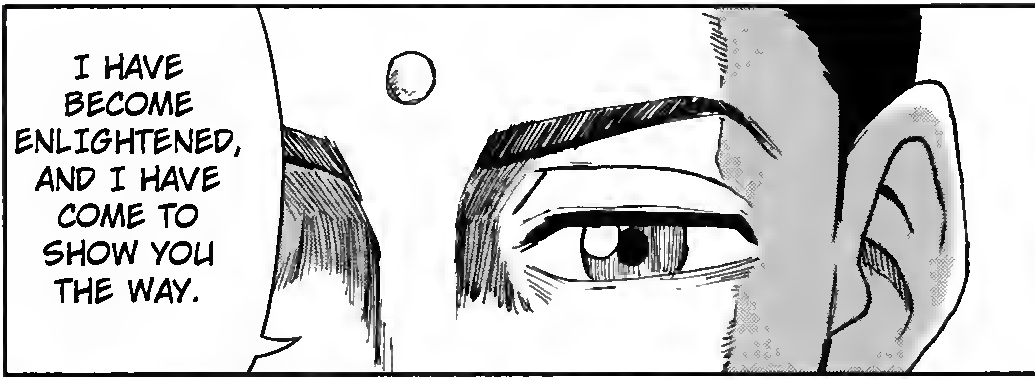

.....
SWISH
スッ
UNDER-STOOD!

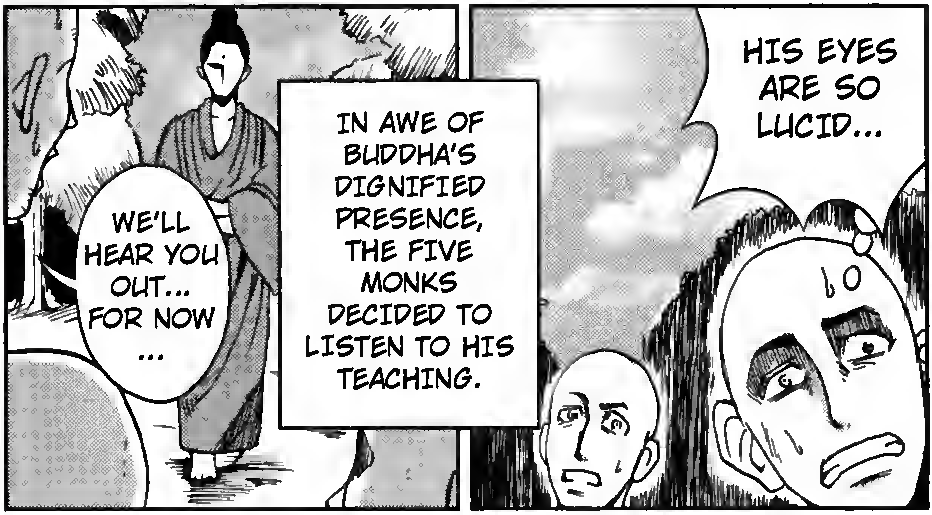

THE GATES OF SWEET NECTAR HAVE BEEN OPENED!
I SHALL SHARE THE TRUTH AND LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO ME... TO THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR!

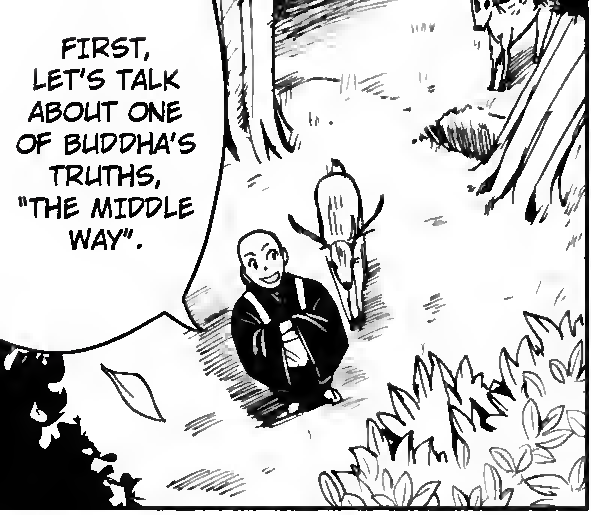

AND SO, BUDDHA MADE THE FIRM DECISION TO SPREAD THE TRUTH AND LAWS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.
THE "SWEET NECTAR" REFERS TO BOTH BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS, AND THE SACRED REMEDY FOR PAIN, OLD AGE, AND DEATH.
FOOTSTEP
十

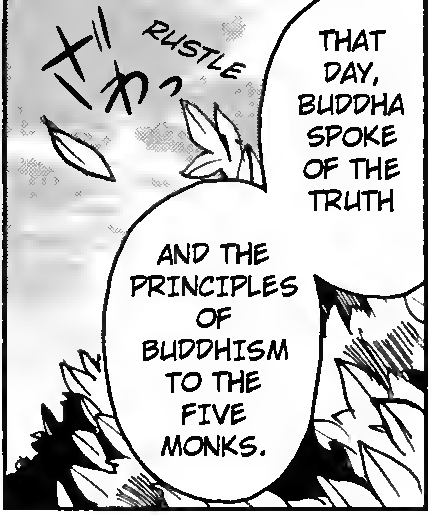
BUDDHA FIRST DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE FOREST OF ASCETIC TRIALS TO SHARE HIS NEWFOUND TRUTH TO THE FIVE MONKS.
FROM THAT MOMENT, BUDDHA BEGAN HIS MINISTRY, AND BUDDHISM WAS BORN.
HUH?
SIDDHARTHA, ISN'T IT?!
HEY! IT'S... IT'S ...
FOOSTEPS
BUDDHA VISITED SARNATH, WHERE THE MONKS WERE GATHERED.

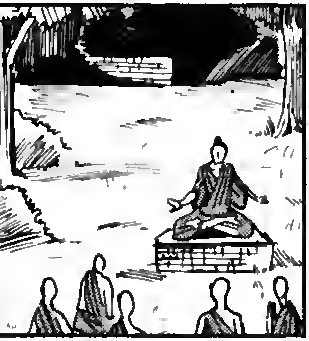
SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT
WHAT ?!
I AM BUDDHA.
I AM SIDDH-ARTHA NO MORE.
B-BUDDHA ?!
IS THIS SOME KINDA JOKE?
TO CALL YOURSELF BUDDHA, THE AWAKENED ONE?!
AND WHY HAVE YOU COME BACK?!

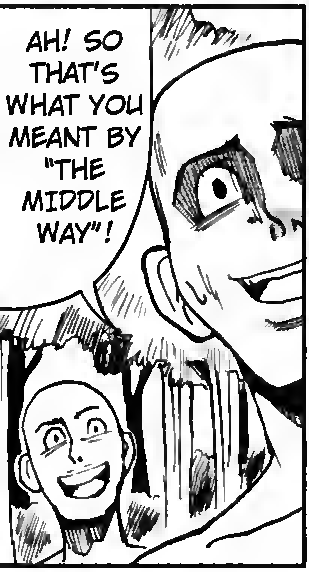

I HAVE BECOME ENLIGHTENED, AND I HAVE COME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY.

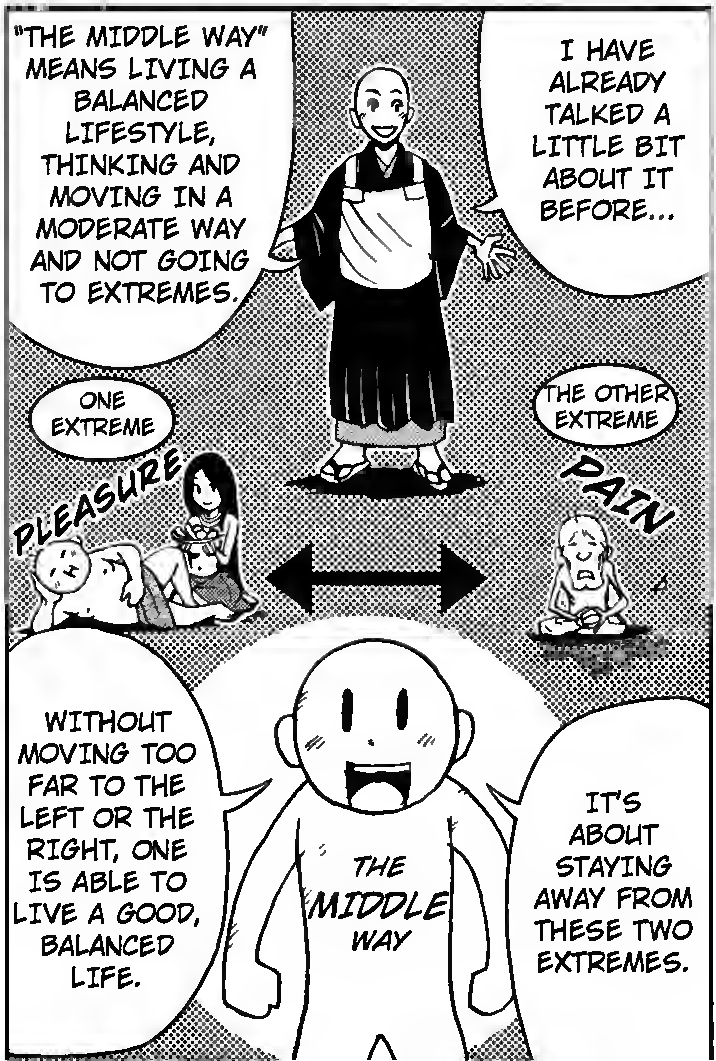

WE'LL HEAR YOU OUT... FOR NOW ...
IN AWE OF BUDDHA'S DIGNIFIED PRESENCE, THE FIVE MONKS DECIDED TO LISTEN TO HIS TEACHING.
HIS EYES ARE SO LUCID...

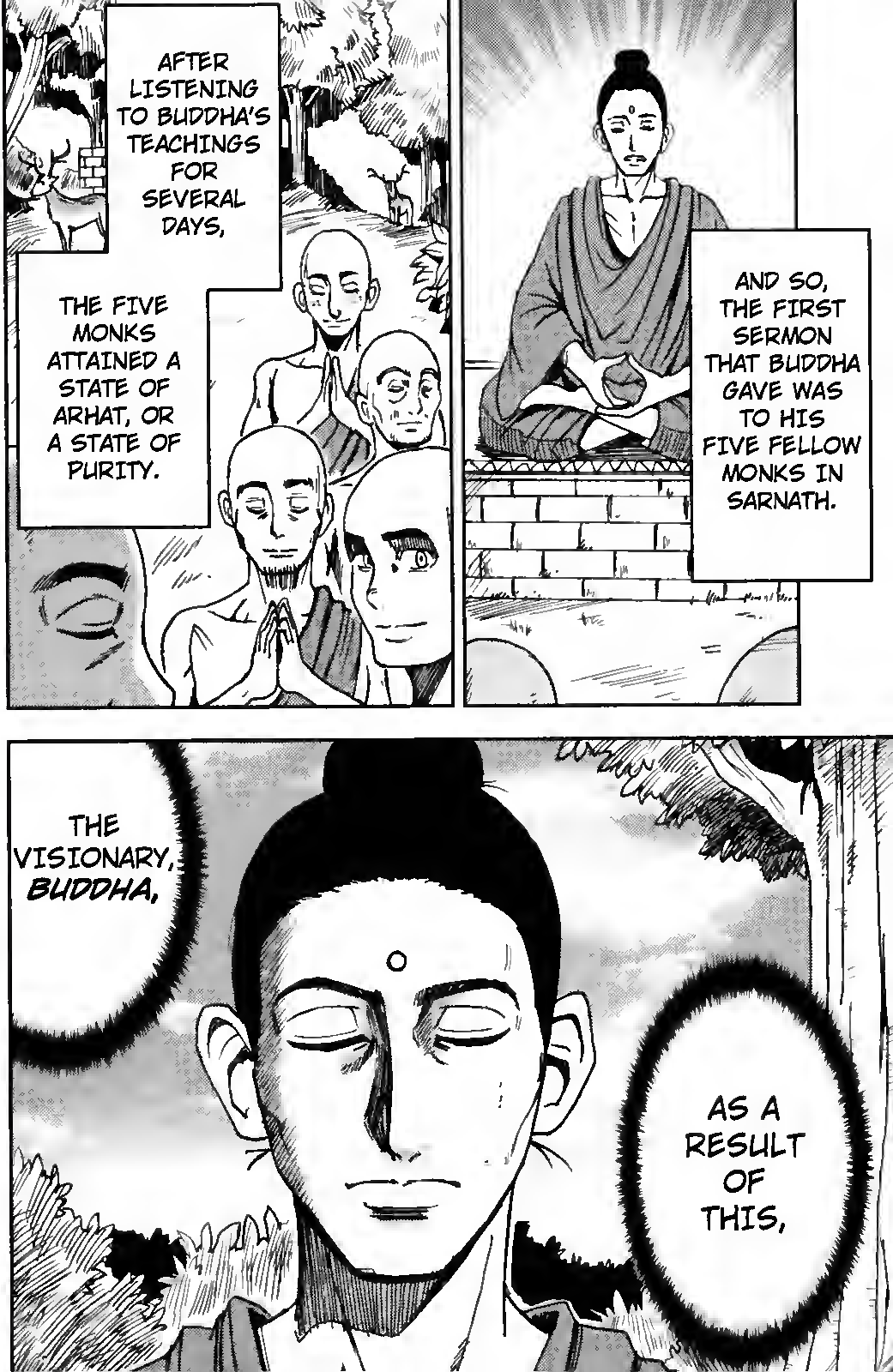

FIRST, LET'S TALK ABOUT ONE OF BUDDHA'S TRUTHS, "THE MIDDLE WAY".

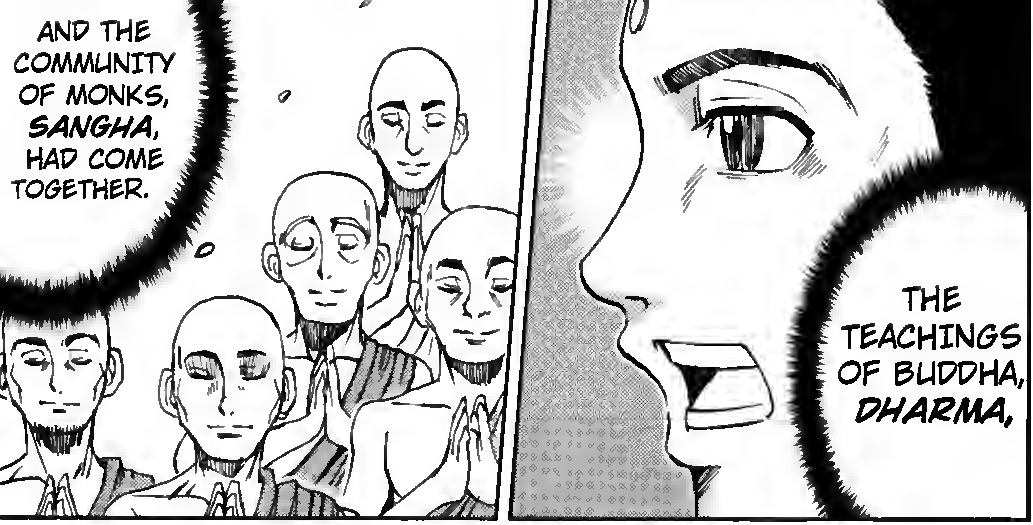

RUSTLE
THAT DAY, BUDDHA SPOKE OF THE TRUTH
AND THE PRINCIPLES OF BUDDHISM TO THE FIVE MONKS.



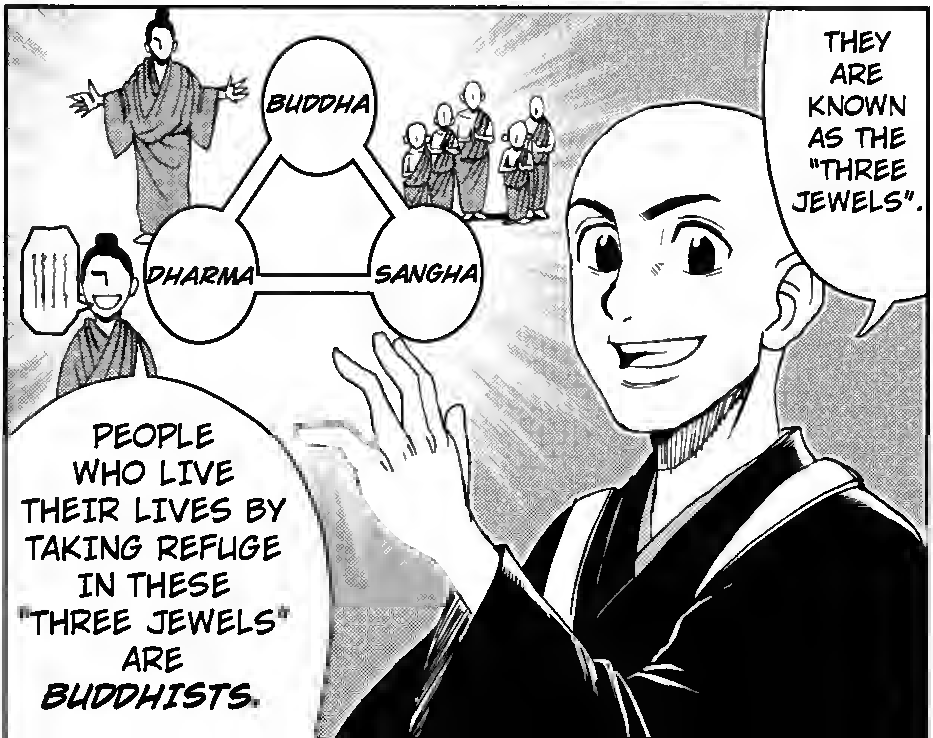

AH! SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT BY "THE MIDDLE WAY"!

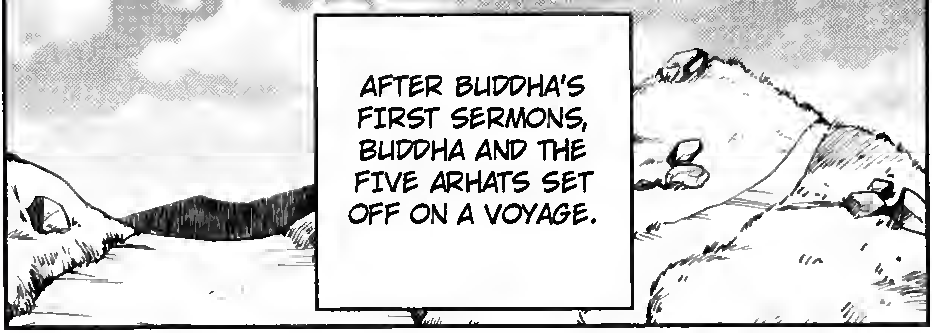

"THE MIDDLE WAY" MEANS LIVING A BALANCED LIFESTYLE, THINKING AND MOVING IN A MODERATE WAY AND NOT GOING TO EXTREMES.
I HAVE ALREADY TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT BEFORE...
ONE EXTREME
PLEASURE
THE OTHER EXTREME
PAIN
WITHOUT MOVING TOO FAR TO THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT, ONE IS ABLE TO LIVE A GOOD, BALANCED LIFE.
THE MIDDLE WAY
IT'S ABOUT STAYING AWAY FROM THESE TWO EXTREMES.

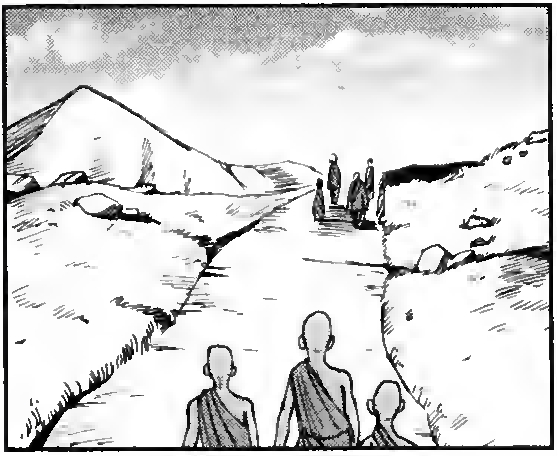

AFTER LISTENING TO BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS FOR SEVERAL DAYS,
THE FIVE MONKS ATTAINED A STATE OF ARHAT, OR A STATE OF PURITY.
AND SO, THE FIRST SERMON THAT BUDDHA GAVE WAS TO HIS FIVE FELLOW MONKS IN SARNATH.
THE VISIONARY, BUDDHA,
AS A RESULT OF THIS,

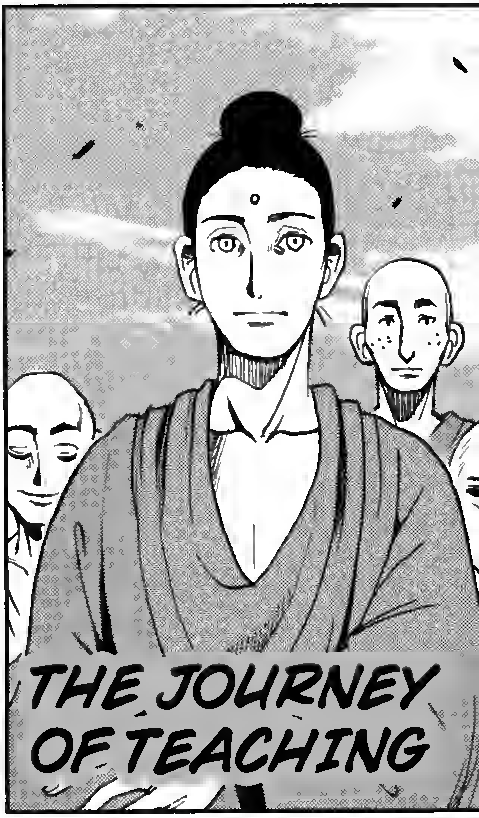

AND THE COMMUNITY OF MONKS, SANGHA, HAD COME TOGETHER.
THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA, DHARMA,

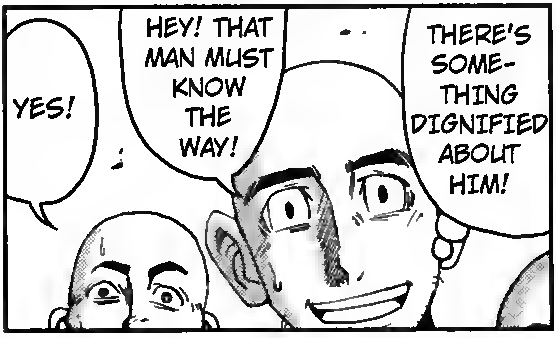
THESE THREE THINGS: BUDDHA, DHARMA, AND SANGHA ARE THE THREE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF BUDDHISM.

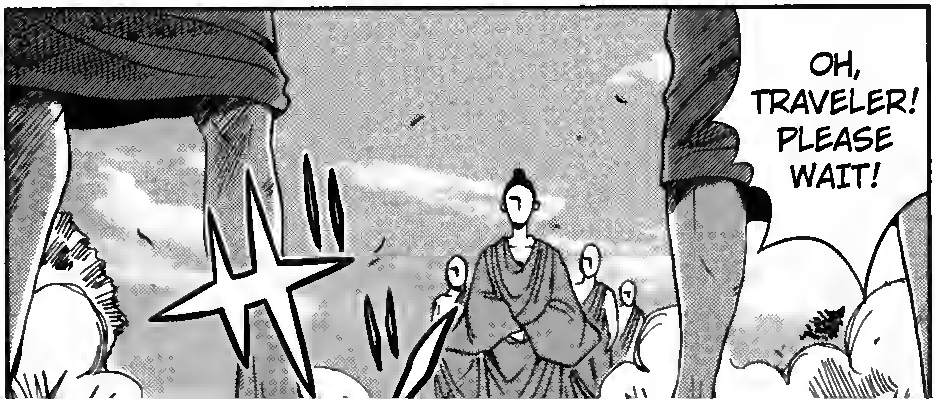

BUDDHA
DHARMA
SANGHA
THEY ARE KNOWN AS THE "THREE JEWELS".
PEOPLE WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES BY TAKING REFUGE IN THESE "THREE JEWELS" ARE BUDDHISTS.


AFTER BUDDHA'S FIRST SERMONS, BUDDHA AND THE FIVE ARHATS SET OFF ON A VOYAGE.



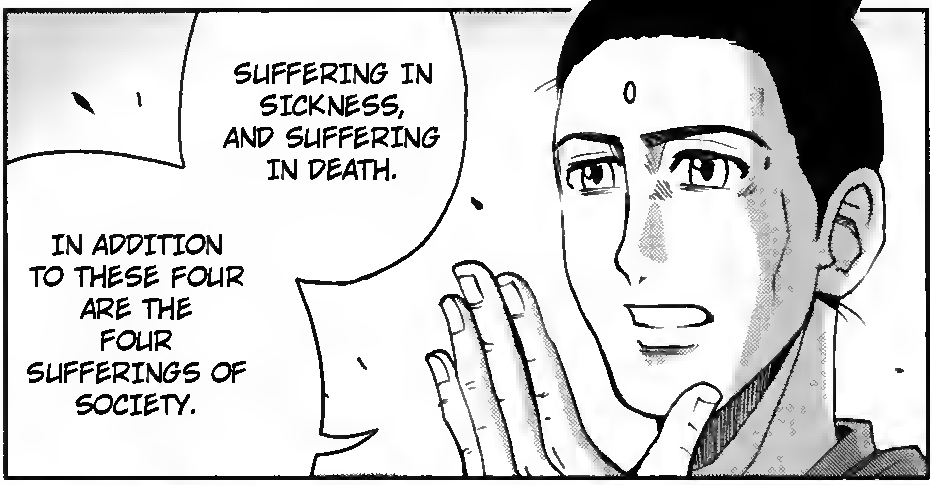

THE JOURNEY OF TEACHING

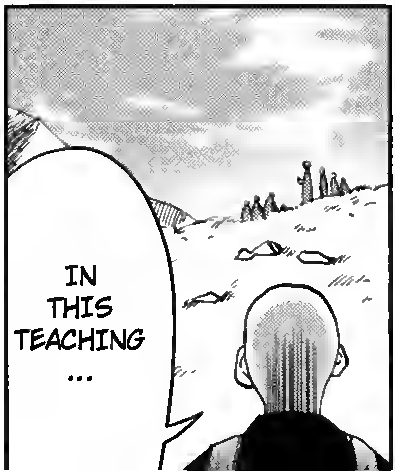

YES!
HEY! THAT MAN MUST KNOW THE WAY!
THERE'S SOME-THING DIGNIFIED ABOUT HIM!

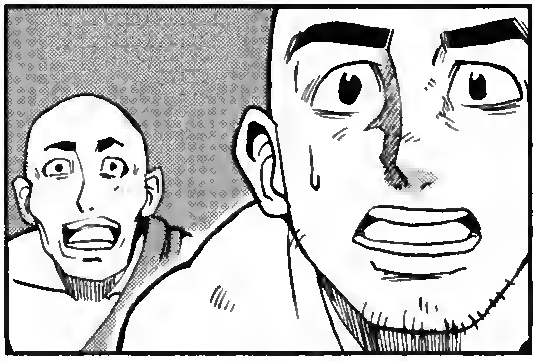

OH, TRAVELER! PLEASE WAIT!

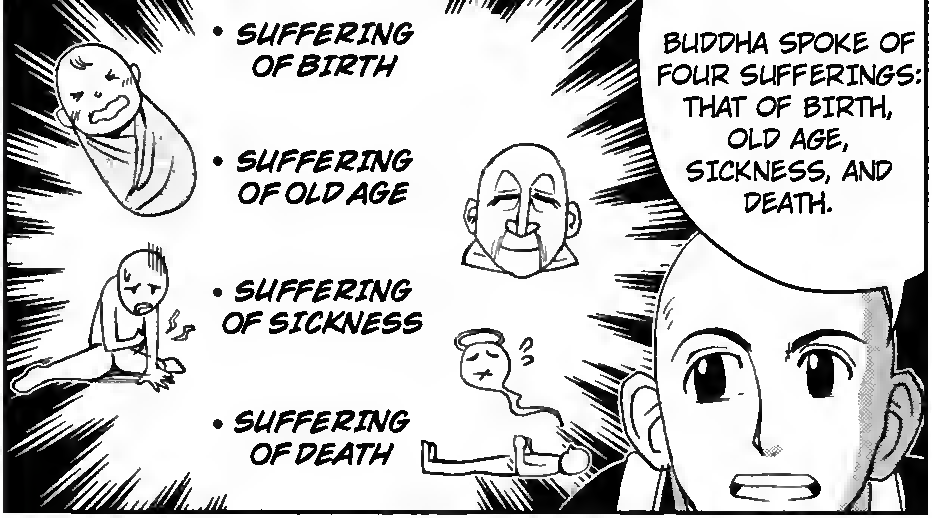
OH TRAVELER, WE MAY BE SPEAKING OUT OF TURN, BUT WE ASK THAT YOU HEAR OUR TROUBLES,
AND SHOW US THE ANSWER...
KNEEL
UNDER-STOOD.
WELL, THEN,
SHRAMANA, TELL ME WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU.
WHAT CAN BE DONE OF THE SUFFERING AND WORRY THAT WE HUMANS HAVE?
WE SEEK ANSWERS TO OUR FEARS! PLEASE GIVE US A WORD OF GUIDANCE!

THERE ARE FOUR BASIC SUFFERINGS OF MANKIND.
THERE IS SUFFERING IN BIRTH, AND SUFFERING IN OLD AGE,


SUFFERING IN SICKNESS, AND SUFFERING IN DEATH.
IN ADDITION TO THESE FOUR ARE THE FOUR SUFFERINGS OF SOCIETY.

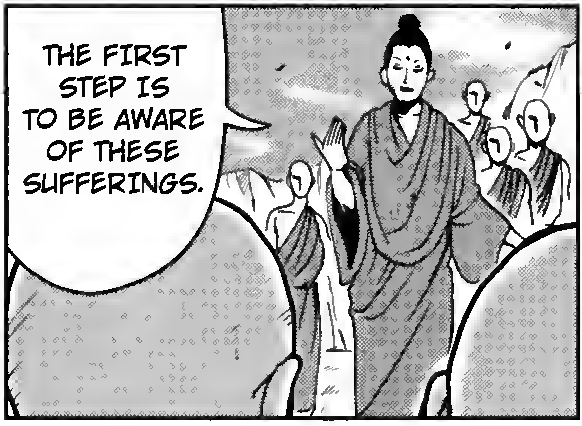

IN THIS TEACHING ...

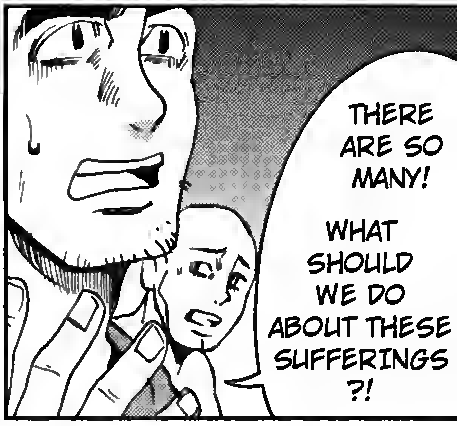


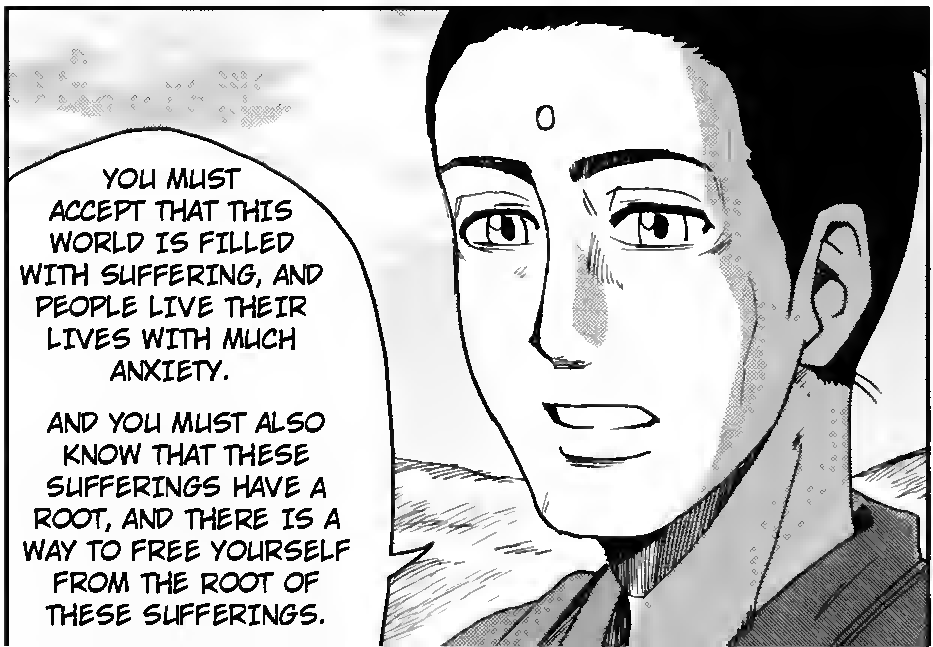

• SUFFERING OF BIRTH
• SUFFERING OF OLD AGE
• SUFFERING OF SICKNESS
• SUFFERING OF DEATH
BUDDHA SPOKE OF FOUR SUFFERINGS: THAT OF BIRTH, OLD AGE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH.

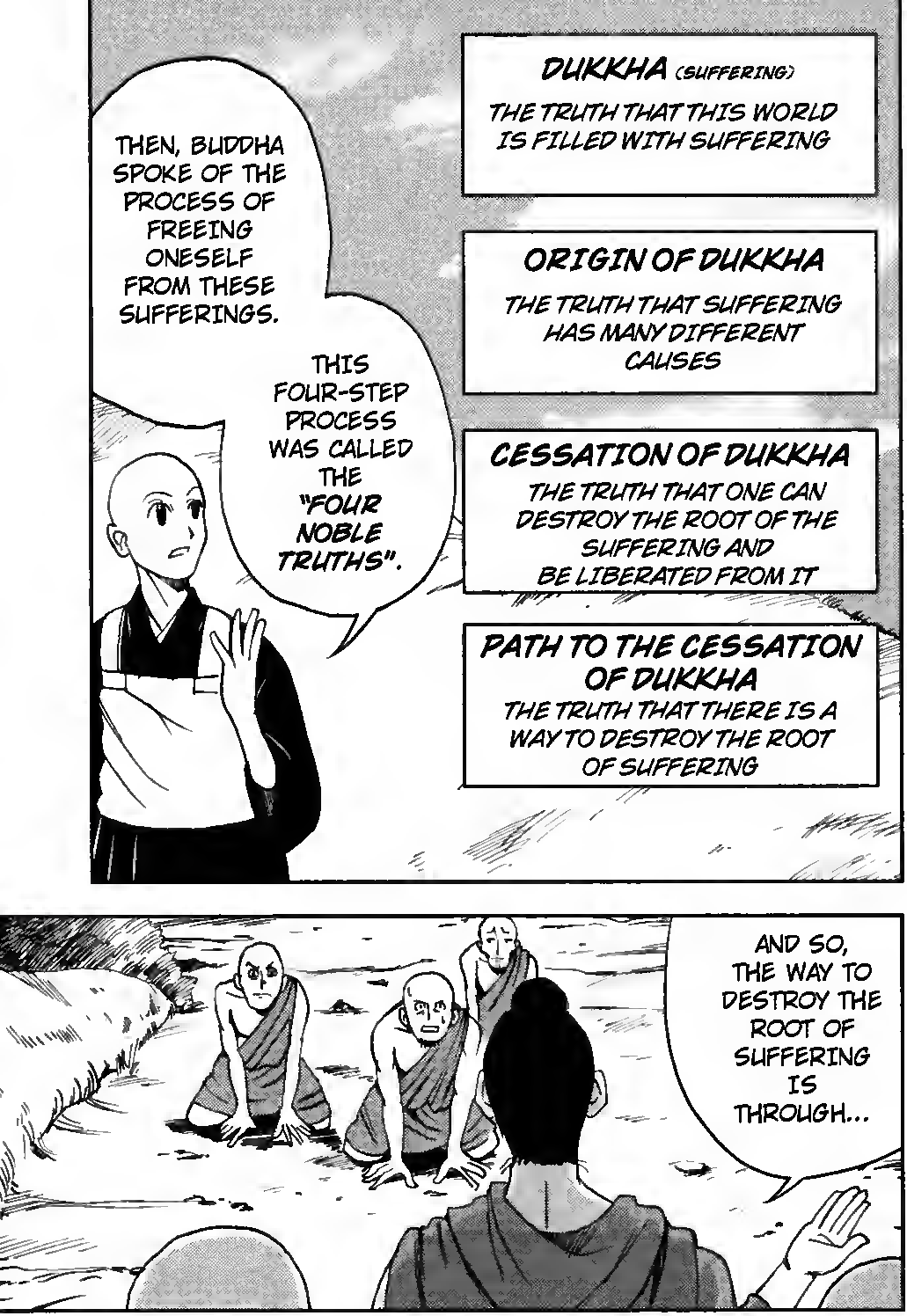
FOUR SUFFERINGS
• SUFFERING CAUSED BY SEPARATION FROM LOVED ONES
• SUFFERING CAUSED BY CONFLICT WITH A HATED PERSON
• SUFFERING CAUSED BY NOT GETTING WHAT YOU SEEK
• SUFFERING CAUSED BY DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE OUTCOME
IN ADDITION, BUDDHA TALKED ABOUT FOUR SUFFERINGS BORN FROM SOCIETY.
THESE ARE THE FOUR KINDS OF SUFFERINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE CONSUMED WITH.

WOBBLE
BIRTH
NON-FULFILL-MENT
DEATH
WOBBLE
LOSS OF LOVE
DISAP-POINTMENT
HATE
SICK-NESS
OLD AGE
THESE EIGHT SUFFERINGS THAT PEOPLE CANNOT RUN AWAY FROM, ARE CALLED "THE FOUR AND EIGHT KINDS OF SUFFERING".


THE FIRST STEP IS TO BE AWARE OF THESE SUFFERINGS.


THERE ARE SO MANY!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THESE SUFFERINGS ?!


YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT THIS WORLD IS FILLED WITH SUFFERING, AND PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH MUCH ANXIETY.
AND YOU MUST ALSO KNOW THAT THESE SUFFERINGS HAVE A ROOT, AND THERE IS A WAY TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE ROOT OF THESE SUFFERINGS.


THEN, BUDDHA SPOKE OF THE PROCESS OF FREEING ONESELF FROM THESE SUFFERINGS.
THIS FOUR-STEP PROCESS WAS CALLED THE "FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS".
DUKKHA (SUFFERING)
THE TRUTH THAT THIS WORLD IS FILLED WITH SUFFERING
ORIGIN OF DUKKHA
THE TRUTH THAT SUFFERING HAS MANY DIFFERENT CAUSES
CESSATION OF DUKKHA
THE TRUTH THAT ONE CAN DESTROY THE ROOT OF THE SUFFERING AND BE LIBERATED FROM IT
PATH TO THE CESSATION OF DUKKHA
THE TRUTH THAT THERE IS A WAY TO DESTROY THE ROOT OF SUFFERING
AND SO, THE WAY TO DESTROY THE ROOT OF SUFFERING IS THROUGH...

RIGHT VIEW, RIGHT ASPIRATION, RIGHT SPEECH, RIGHT ACTION, RIGHT LIVELIHOOD,
RIGHT CONCENTRATION, RIGHT MINDFULNESS, AND RIGHT EFFORT. THERE ARE THESE EIGHT CORRECT WAYS.

RIGHT VIEW

HAVING A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE AND OUTLOOK

RIGHT ASPIRATION

PONDERING THE CORRECT TRUTHS AND MORALS

RIGHT SPEECH

SPEAKING TRUTH, WITHOUT GOSSIP OR SLANDER

RIGHT ACTION

LIVING MORALLY, AVOIDING THIEVERY, MURDER, AND DRUNKENNESS

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD

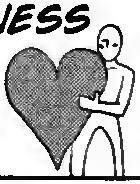
LIVING A LIFE OF HONEST LIVING

RIGHT EFFORT

PUTTING IN A DAILY EFFORT WITHOUT BEING LAZY

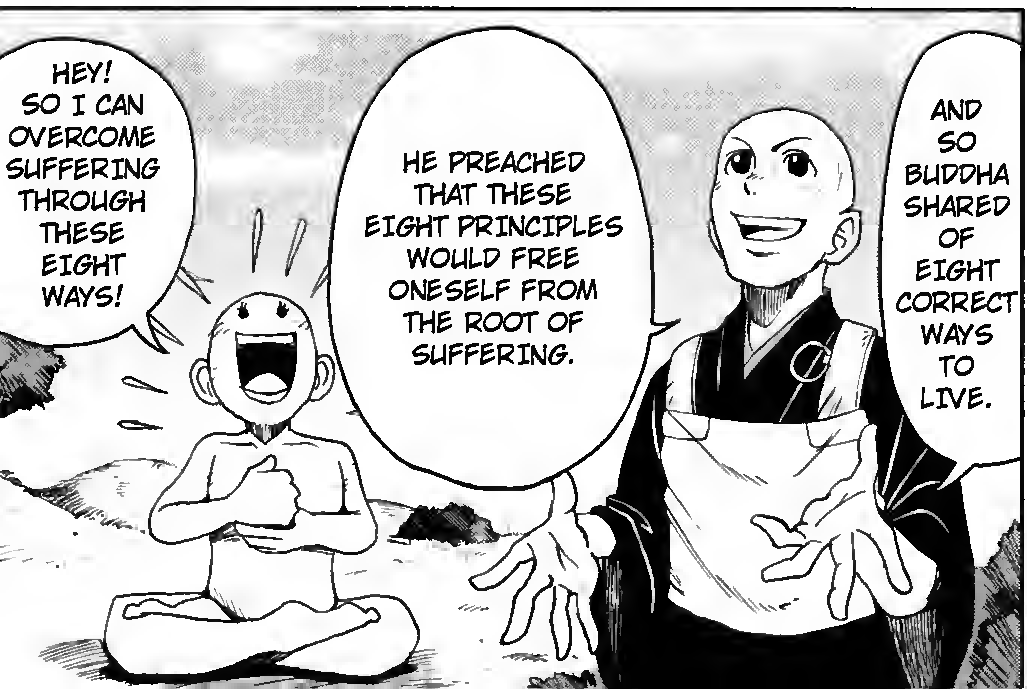
RIGHT MINDFULNESS

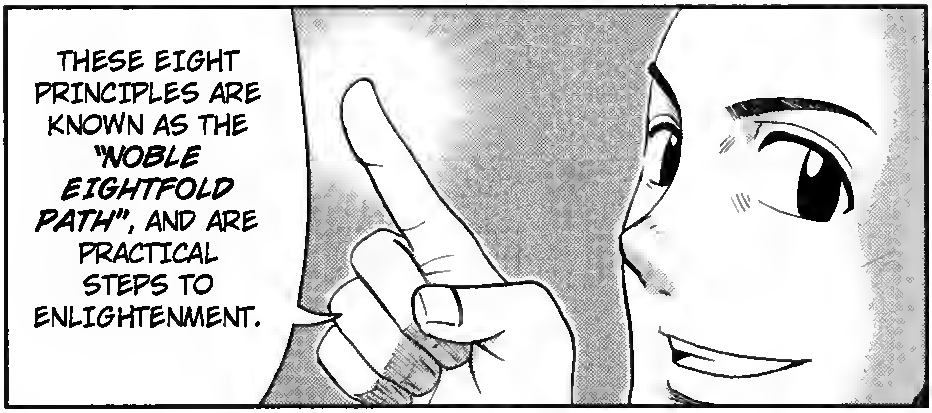
ALWAYS BEING MINDFUL OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE

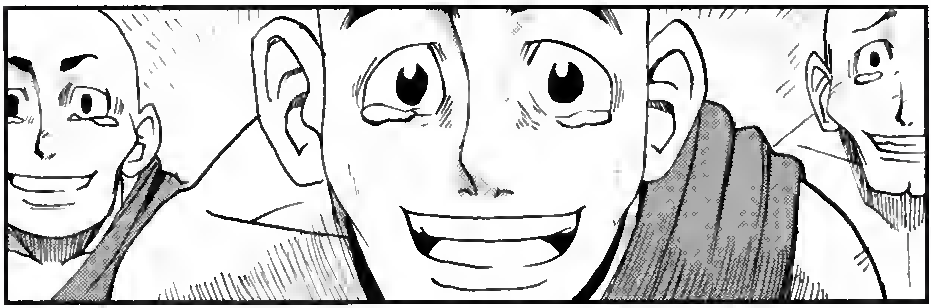


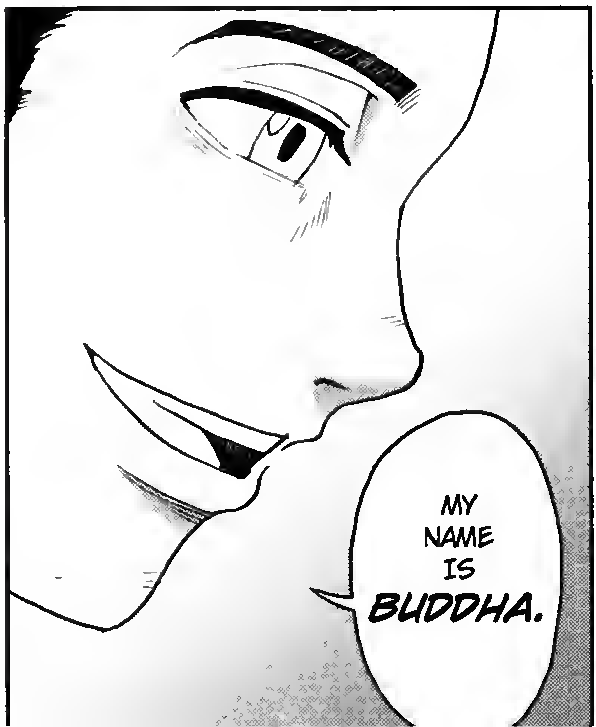
RIGHT CONCENTRATION

MEDITATING CORRECTLY AND BEING ONE WITH THE MIND

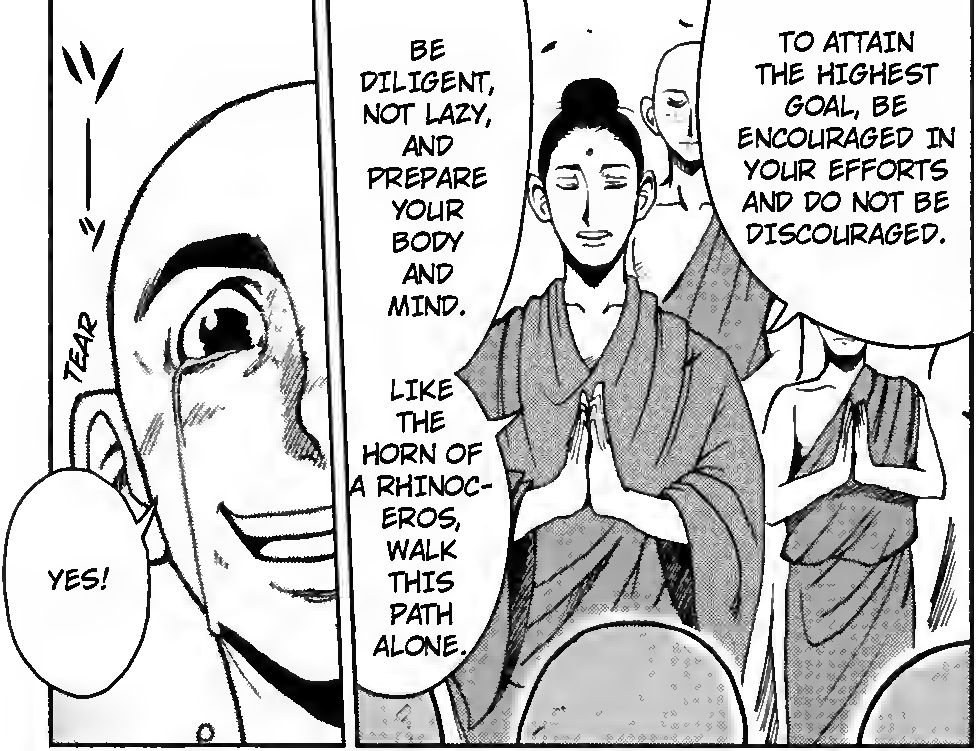

HEY! SO I CAN OVERCOME SUFFERING THROUGH THESE EIGHT WAYS!
HE PREACHED THAT THESE EIGHT PRINCIPLES WOULD FREE ONESELF FROM THE ROOT OF SUFFERING.
AND SO BUDDHA SHARED OF EIGHT CORRECT WAYS TO LIVE.

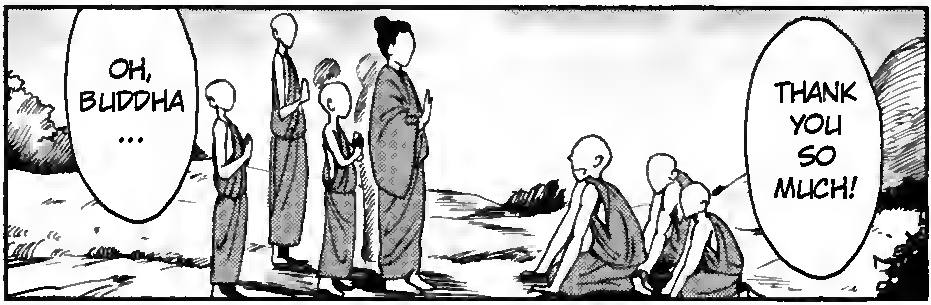

THESE EIGHT PRINCIPLES ARE KNOWN AS THE "NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH", AND ARE PRACTICAL STEPS TO ENLIGHTENMENT.

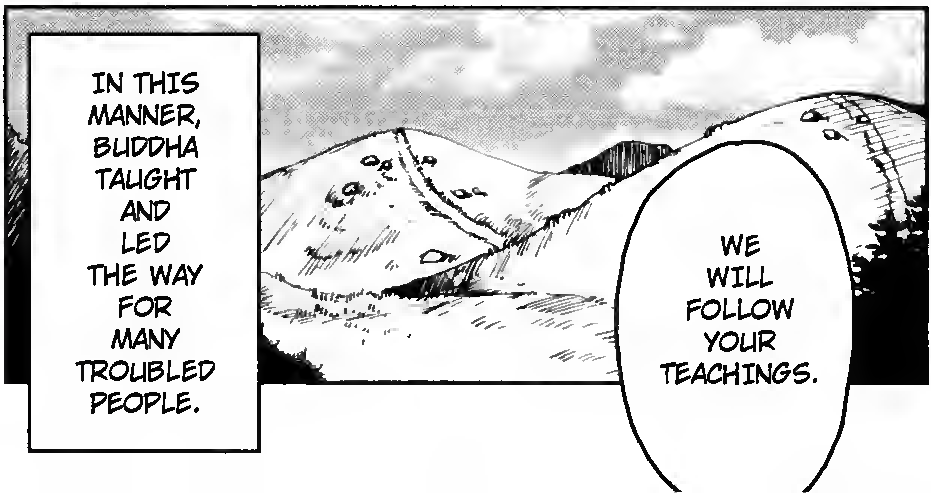


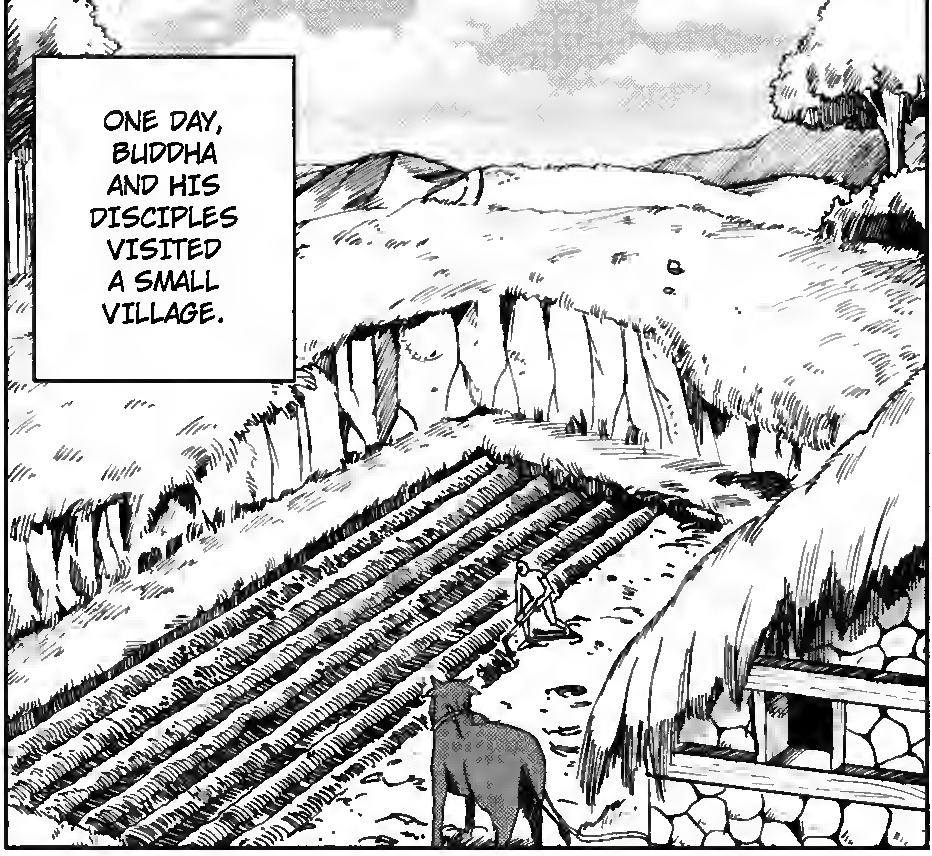

MY NAME IS BUDDHA.

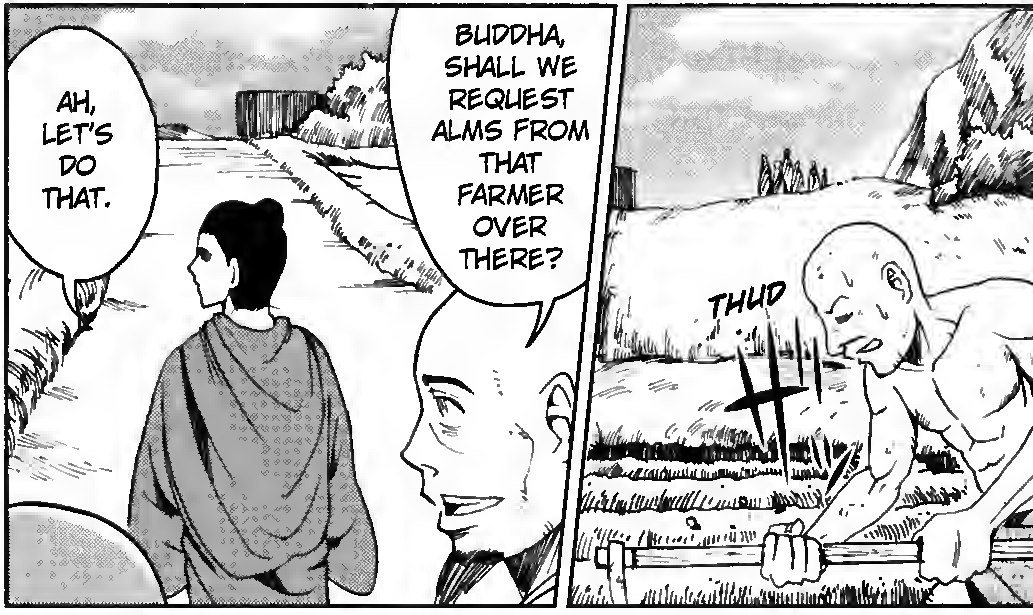
IF WE MAY ASK FOR YOUR NAME ...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE!


TEAR
YES!
BE DILIGENT, NOT LAZY, AND PREPARE YOUR BODY AND MIND.
LIKE THE HORN OF A RHINOCEROS, WALK THIS PATH ALONE.
TO ATTAIN THE HIGHEST GOAL, BE ENCOURAGED IN YOUR EFFORTS AND DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

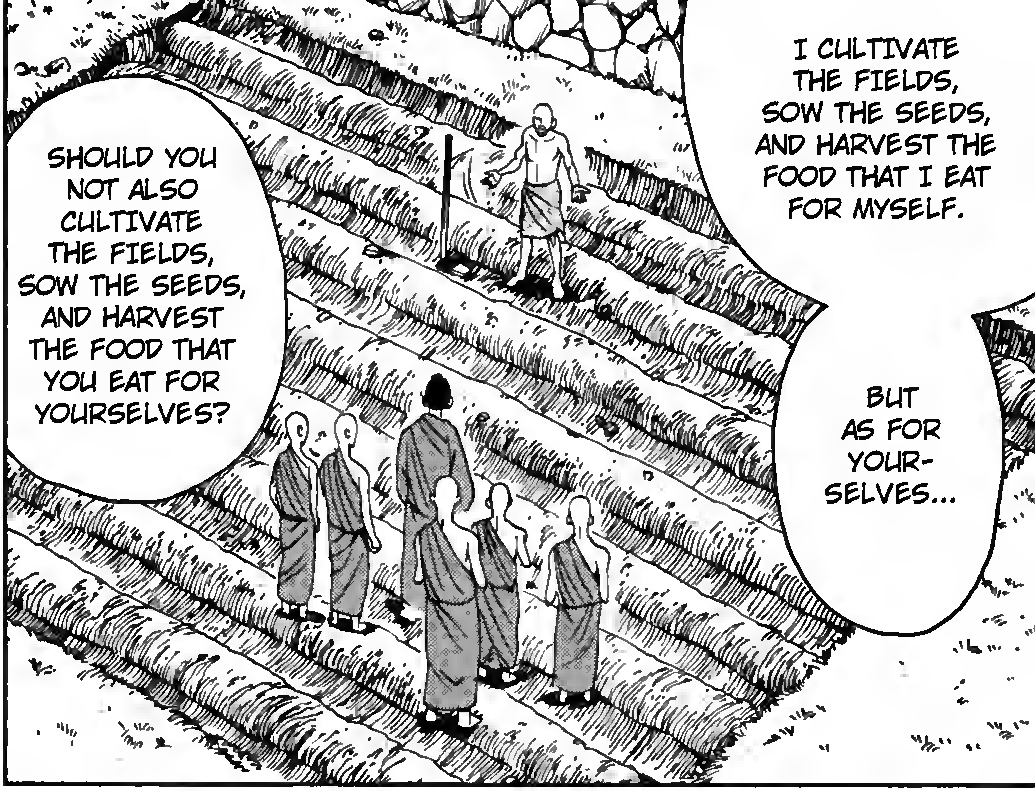

OH, BUDDHA ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

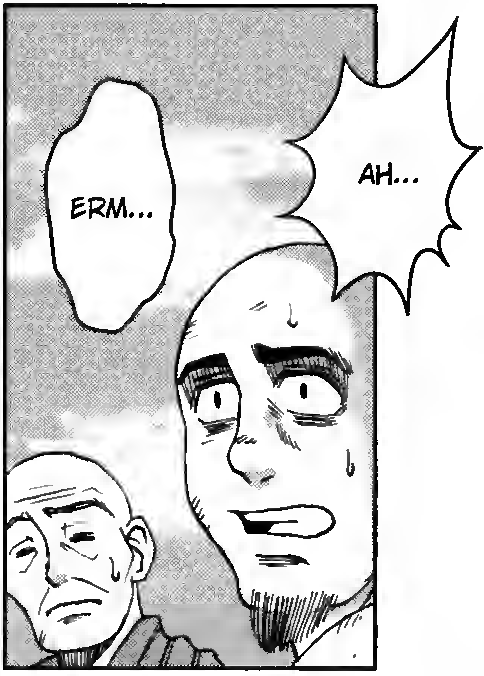

IN THIS MANNER, BUDDHA TAUGHT AND LED THE WAY FOR MANY TROUBLED PEOPLE.
WE WILL FOLLOW YOUR TEACHINGS.

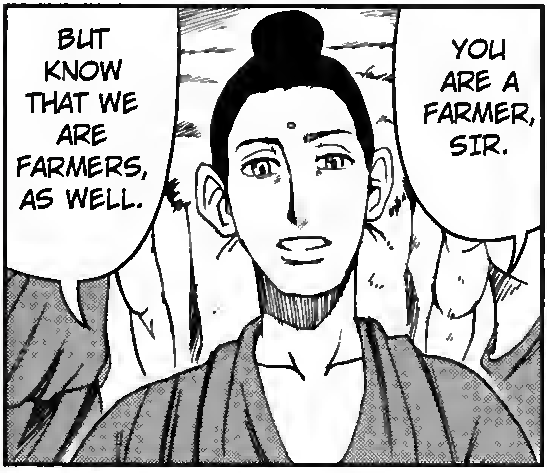

ONE DAY, BUDDHA AND HIS DISCIPLES VISITED A SMALL VILLAGE.


BUDDHA, SHALL WE REQUEST ALMS FROM THAT FARMER OVER THERE?
AH, LET'S DO THAT.
THUD

HRMPH! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
EXCUSE US, OH VILLAGER!
MAY WE ASK FOR A DONATION TO HELP US IN OUR TRAVELS?
GASP! WHAT?!
... NO...!
HMPH!
MAY WE KNOW THE REASON FOR THIS?
.....


I CULTIVATE THE FIELDS, SOW THE SEEDS, AND HARVEST THE FOOD THAT I EAT FOR MYSELF.
BUT AS FOR YOUR-SELVES...
SHOULD YOU NOT ALSO CULTIVATE THE FIELDS, SOW THE SEEDS, AND HARVEST THE FOOD THAT YOU EAT FOR YOURSELVES?


AH...
ERM...

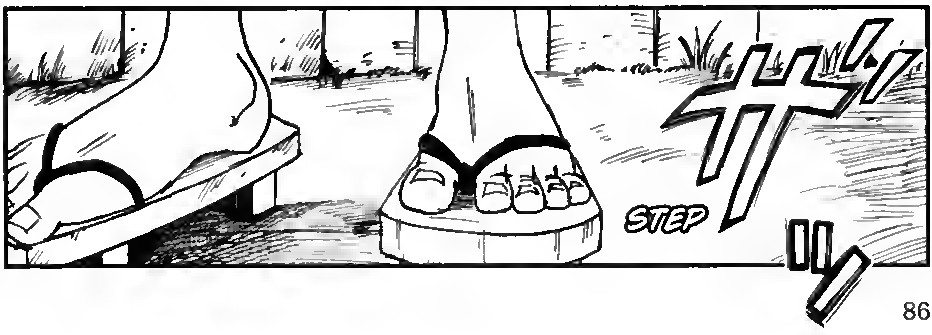

YOU ARE A FARMER, SIR.
BUT KNOW THAT WE ARE FARMERS, AS WELL.

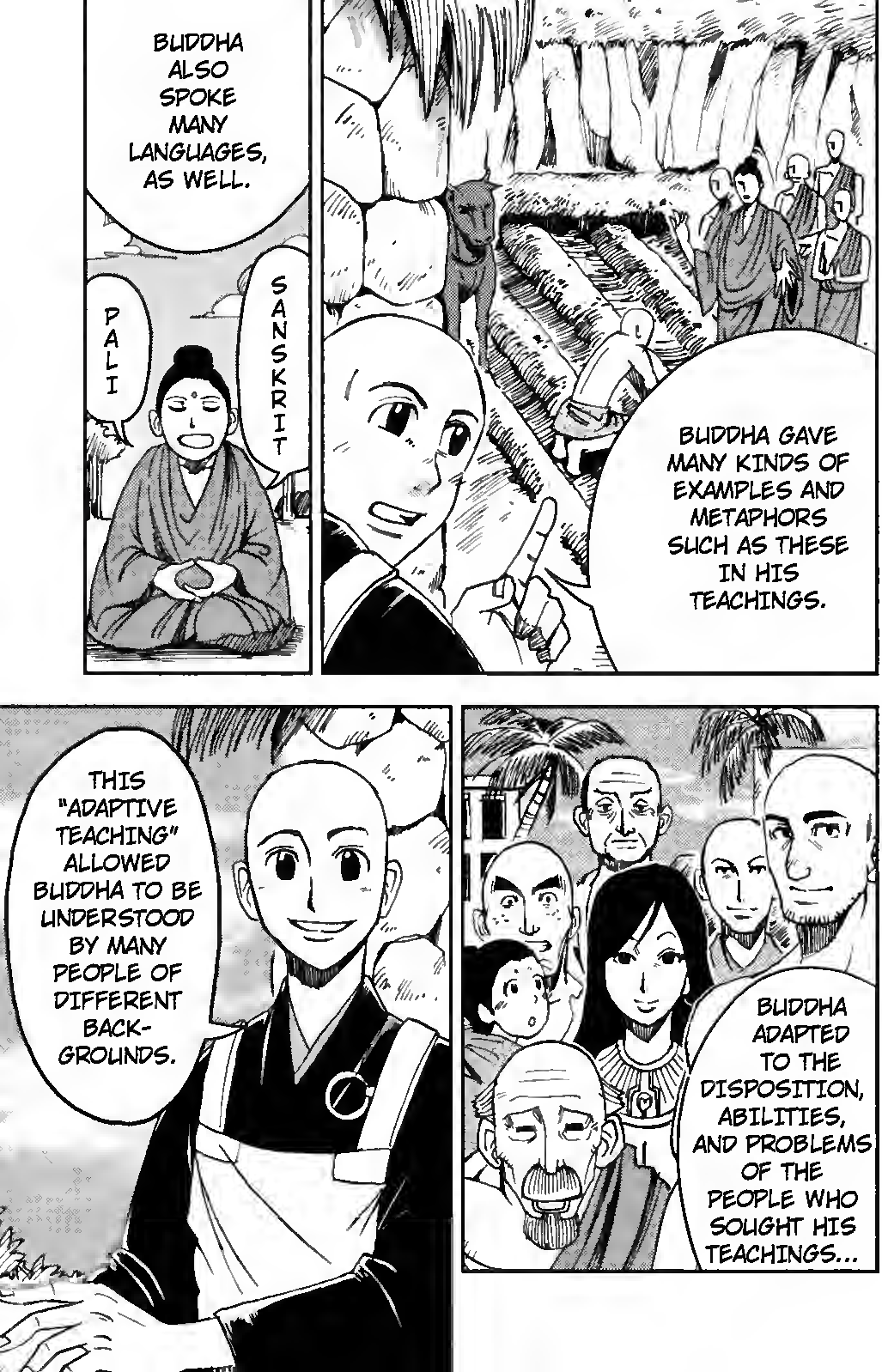
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FLINCH

WE SOW THE SEEDS OF TRUTH INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS...
OUR TEACHINGS ARE THE RAIN, OUR WISDOM IS THE SHOVEL,
AND THE TRUTH AND RIGHT MORALS ARE THE SICKLE.
THEREFORE, THE LIVES THAT WE MONKS LEAD ARE ALSO OF FARMING AND HARVEST.

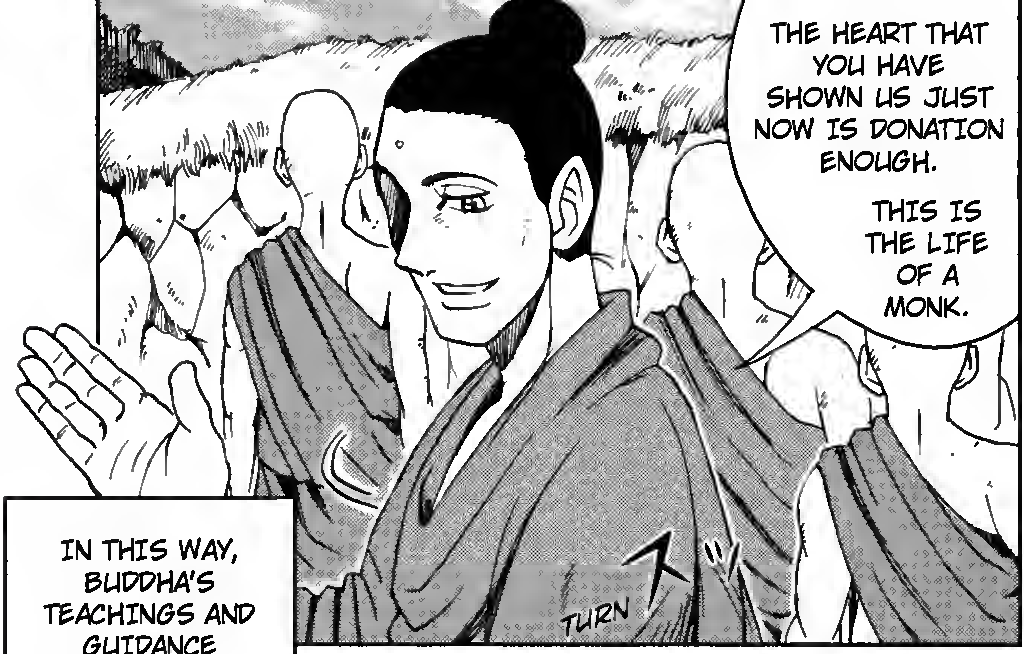
WE BRING SWEET NECTAR TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE.
GASP!
INCH BACKWARDS

FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I SAID EARLIER...
KNEEL

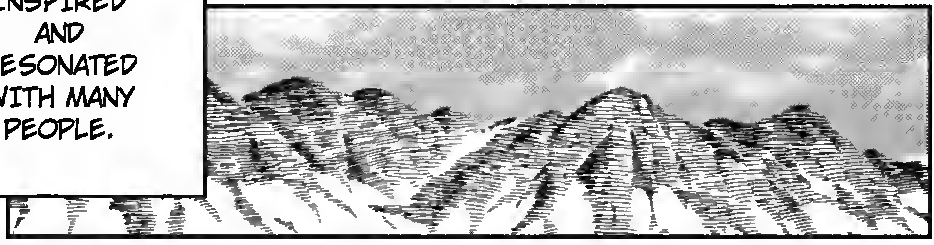

STEP

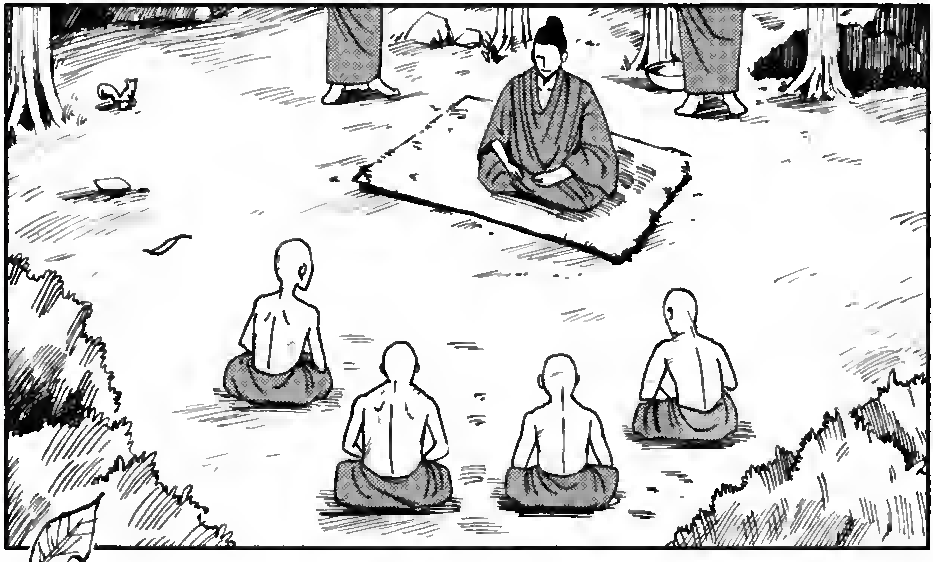

BUDDHA GAVE MANY KINDS OF EXAMPLES AND METAPHORS SUCH AS THESE IN HIS TEACHINGS.
BUDDHA ALSO SPOKE MANY LANGUAGES, AS WELL.
SANSKRIT
PALI
BUDDHA ADAPTED TO THE DISPOSITION, ABILITIES, AND PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT HIS TEACHINGS...
THIS "ADAPTIVE TEACHING" ALLOWED BUDDHA TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY MANY PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT BACK-GROUNDS.

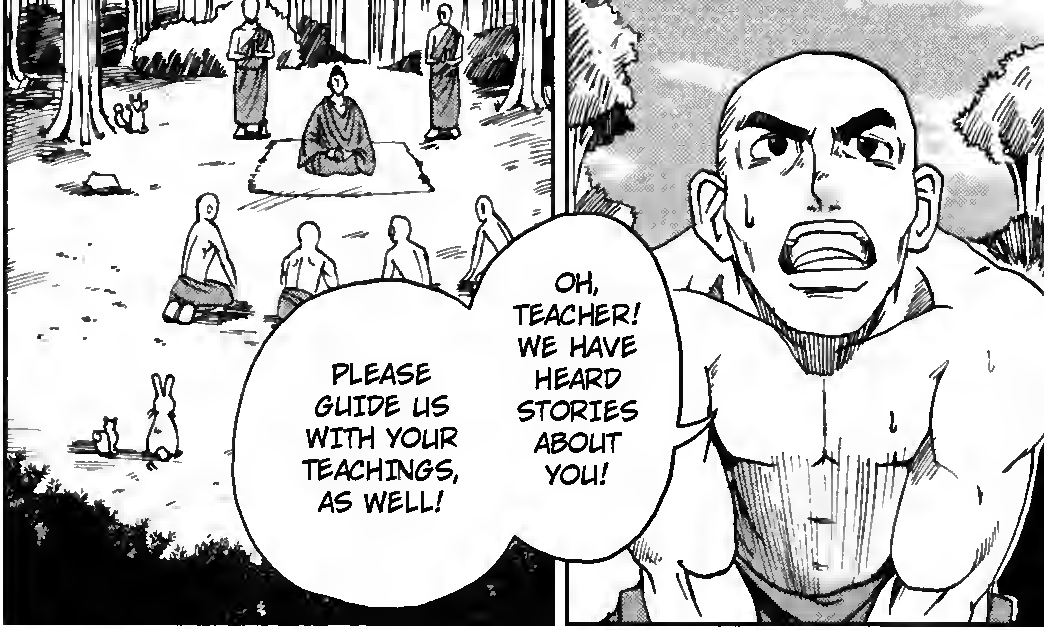
THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.
LET ME BRING YOU SOME MILK POR-RIDGE.
YOU ARE ALL HONORABLE FARMERS.
BUT WHY NOT?!
HUH?!
B-BUT... I INSIST! I WOULD LIKE TO...
THE DONATIONS WE RECEIVE ARE NOT IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR TEACHINGS.

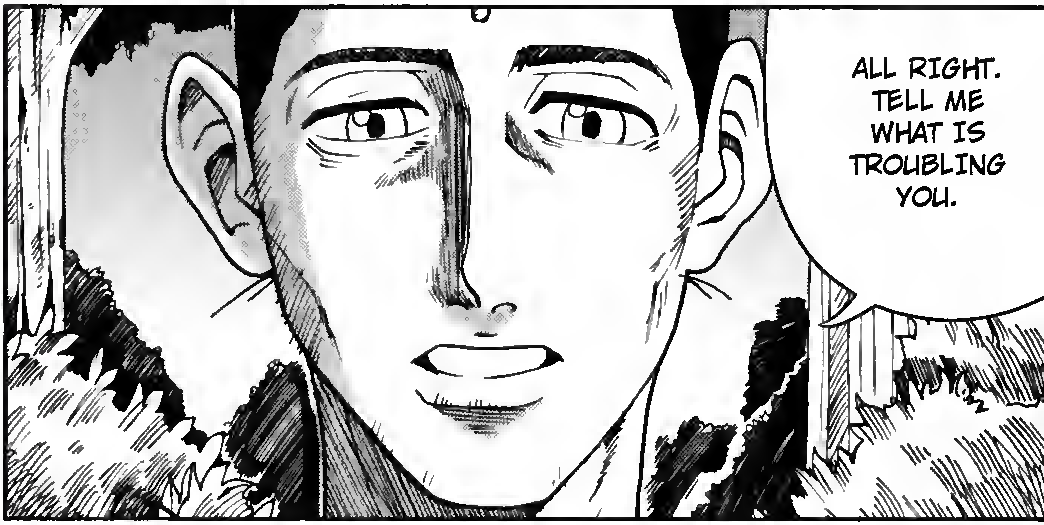


IN THIS WAY, BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS AND GUIDANCE INSPIRED AND RESONATED WITH MANY PEOPLE.



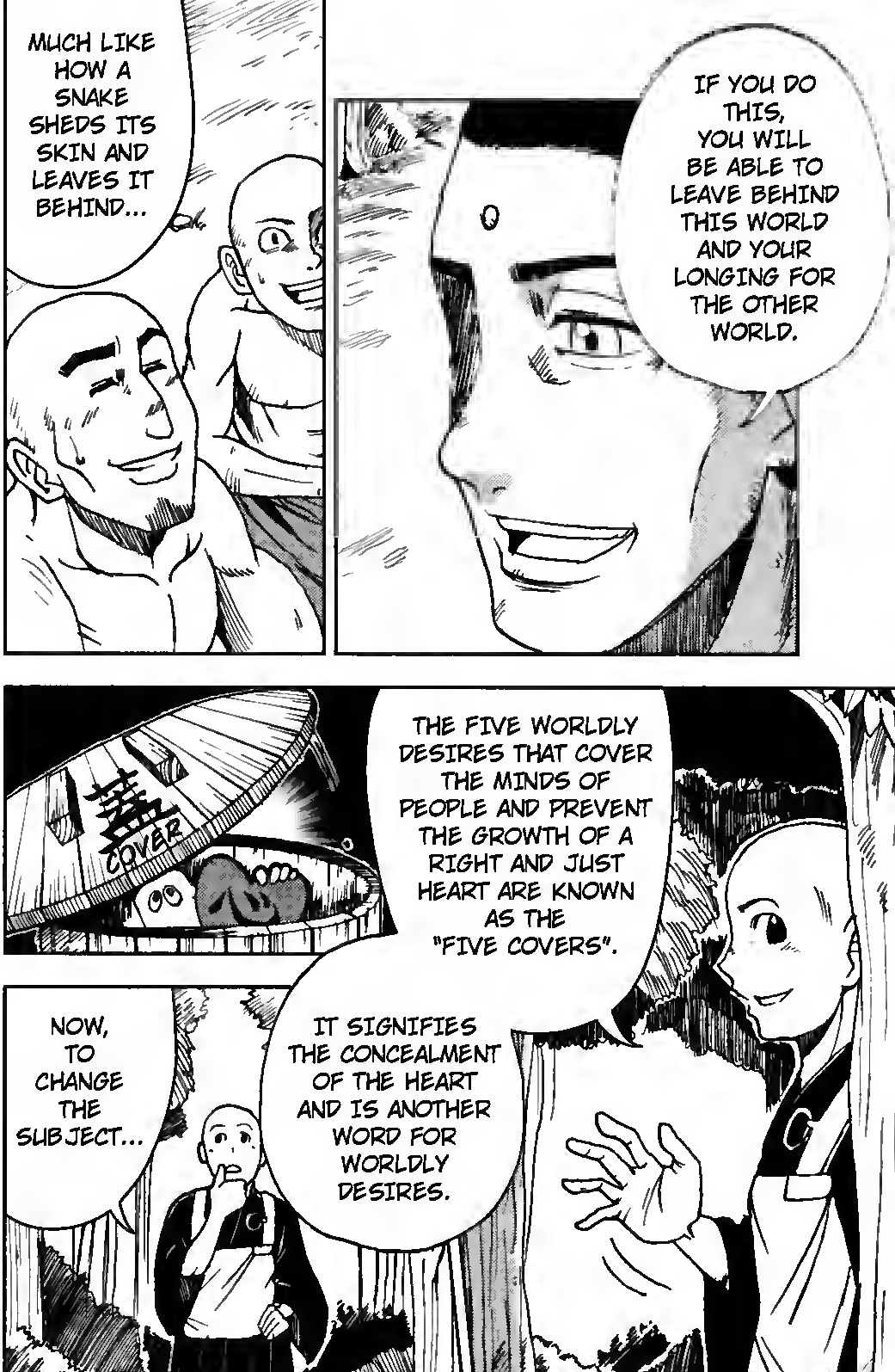


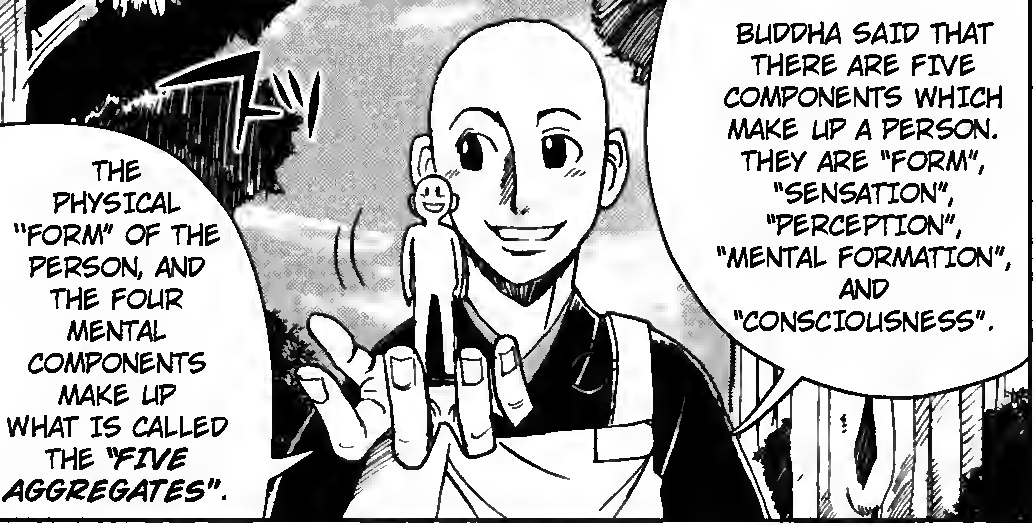

OH, TEACHER! WE HAVE HEARD STORIES ABOUT YOU!
PLEASE GUIDE US WITH YOUR TEACHINGS, AS WELL!

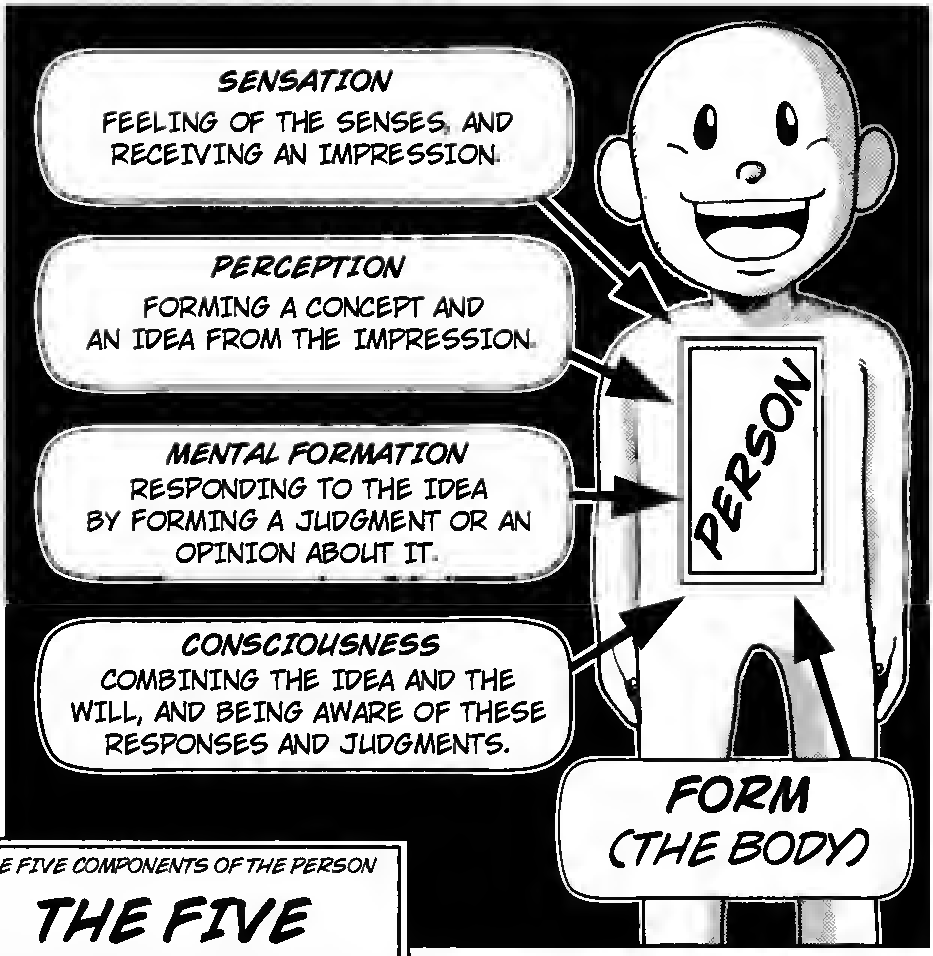

ALL RIGHT. TELL ME WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU.

WHAT IS STANDING IN THE WAY OF OUR FAITH AND MAKING US STRAY FROM THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT?
PLEASE TEACH US!

THESE FIVE COVERS ARE APPETITE, ANGER, DEPRESSION,
ANXIETY, AND DOUBT.
FURTHER-MORE...
THERE ARE FIVE COVERS THAT ARE BLINDING YOU.
DELUSION
BAD JUDG-MENT
DESIRE
PRIDE
HATRED
YOU MUST PULL OUT THE PAINFUL ARROWS THAT ARE IN YOU.
THEY ARE DESIRE, HATRED, DELUSION, PRIDE, AND BAD JUDGMENT.


MUCH LIKE HOW A SNAKE SHEDS ITS SKIN AND LEAVES IT BEHIND...
IF YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE BEHIND THIS WORLD AND YOUR LONGING FOR THE OTHER WORLD.
蓋
COVER
THE FIVE WORLDLY DESIRES THAT COVER THE MINDS OF PEOPLE AND PREVENT THE GROWTH OF A RIGHT AND JUST HEART ARE KNOWN AS THE "FIVE COVERS".
IT SIGNIFIES THE CONCEALMENT OF THE HEART AND IS ANOTHER WORD FOR WORLDLY DESIRES.
NOW, TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT...


BUDDHA SAID THAT THERE ARE FIVE COMPONENTS WHICH MAKE UP A PERSON. THEY ARE "FORM", "SENSATION", "PERCEPTION", "MENTAL FORMATION", AND "CONSCIOUSNESS".
THE PHYSICAL "FORM" OF THE PERSON, AND THE FOUR MENTAL COMPONENTS MAKE UP WHAT IS CALLED THE "FIVE AGGREGATES".

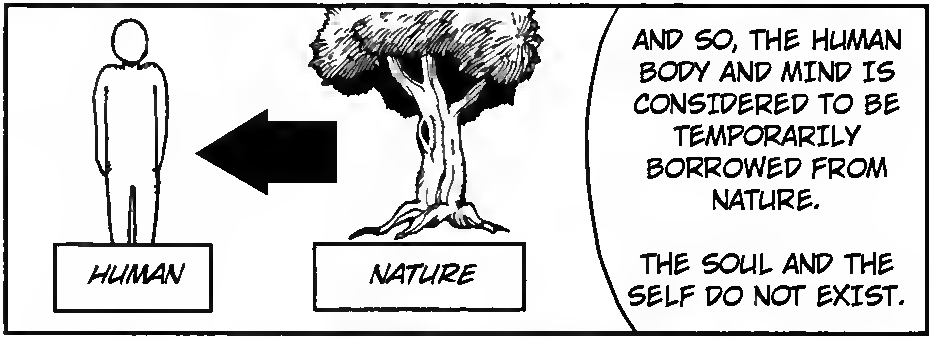

SENSATION
FEELING OF THE SENSES AND RECEIVING AN IMPRESSION.
PERCEPTION
FORMING A CONCEPT AND AN IDEA FROM THE IMPRESSION.
MENTAL FORMATION
RESPONDING TO THE IDEA BY FORMING A JUDGMENT OR AN OPINION ABOUT IT.
CONSCIOUSNESS
COMBINING THE IDEA AND THE WILL, AND BEING AWARE OF THESE RESPONSES AND JUDGMENTS.
PERSON
FORM (THE BODY)

THE FIVE COMPONENTS OF THE PERSON

THE FIVE AGGREGATES

IN BUDDHISM, THE COMPONENTS THAT MAKE UP THE PERSON ARE ONLY TOGETHER FOR THE TIME BEING, AND ONE COMPONENT CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER COMPONENTS.

INCIDENTALLY, THE FIVE AGGREGATES CAN BRING ABOUT ONE OF THE "FOUR AND EIGHT KINDS OF SUFFERINGS", THE SUFFERING OF DISAPPOINT-MENT.



AND SO, THE HUMAN BODY AND MIND IS CONSIDERED TO BE TEMPORARILY BORROWED FROM NATURE.

THE SOUL AND THE SELF DO NOT EXIST.

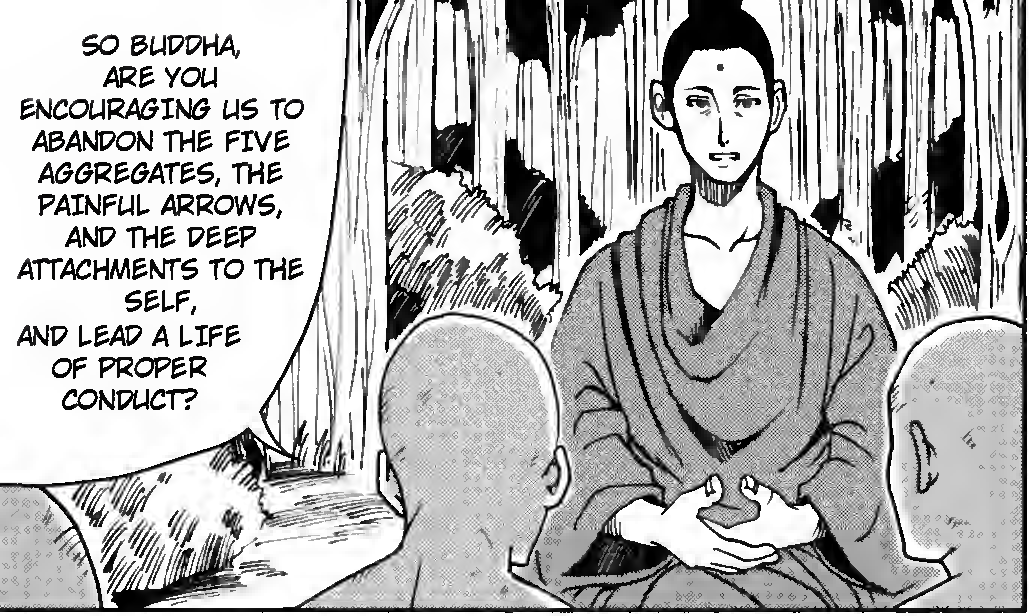
IT IS A TEACHING THAT URGES PEOPLE TO ABANDON ALL DEEP ATTACHMENTS AND THEREFORE, BE FREE FROM SUFFERING.

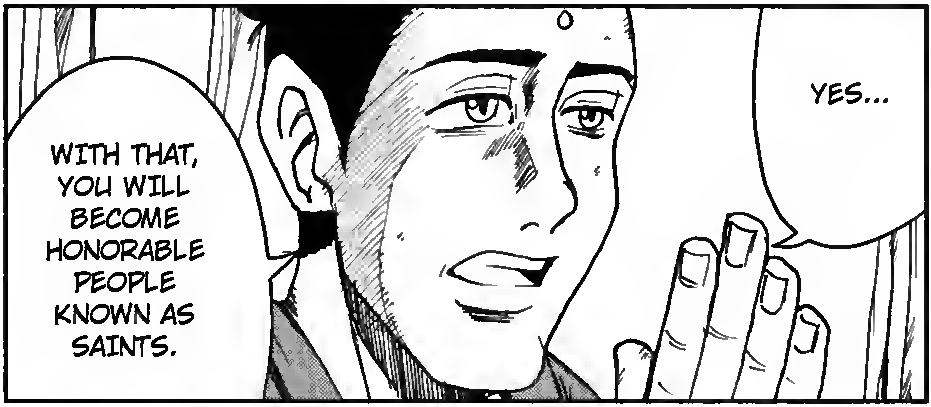
無我

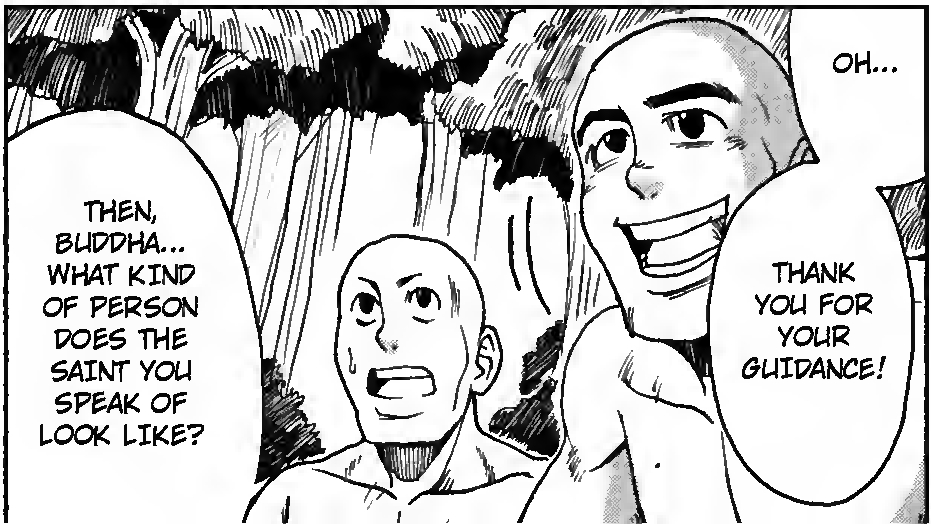
NON-SELF

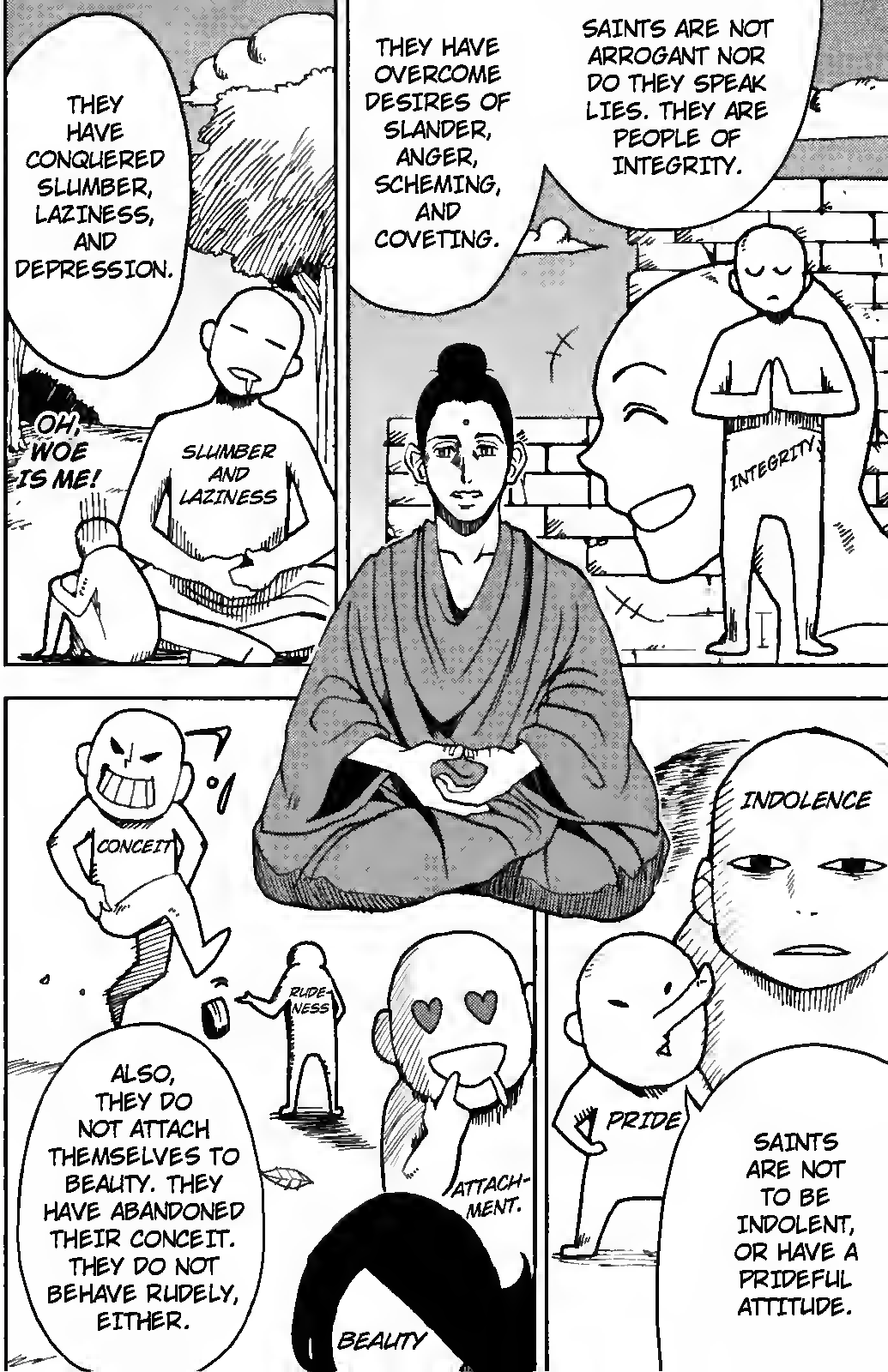
NON-SELF

THIS IDEA IS CALLED THE "FIVE AGGREGATES AND NON-SELF".

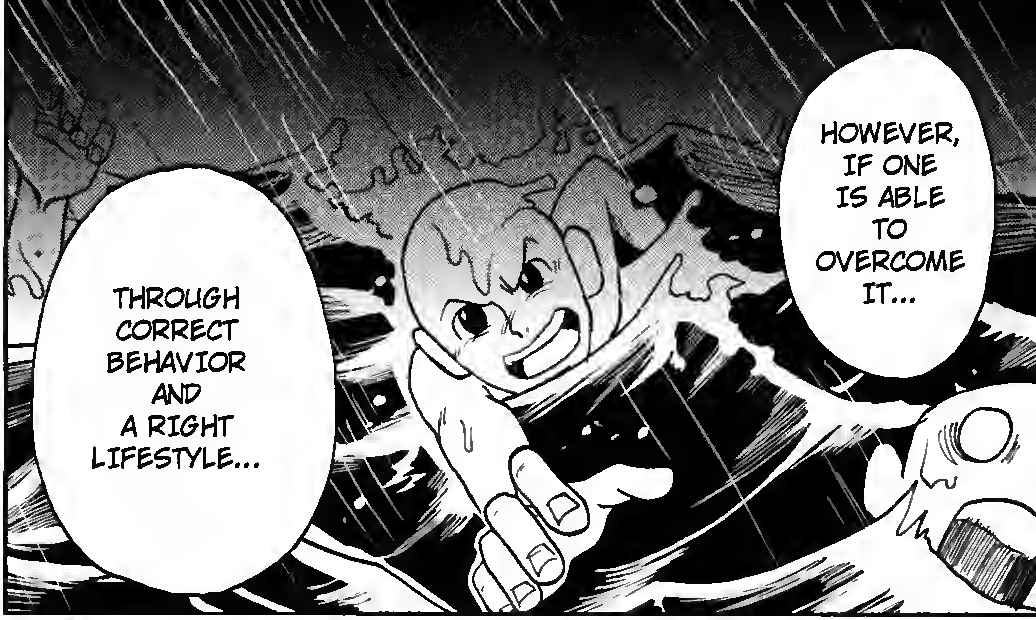

SO BUDDHA, ARE YOU ENCOURAGING US TO ABANDON THE FIVE AGGREGATES, THE PAINFUL ARROWS, AND THE DEEP ATTACHMENTS TO THE SELF, AND LEAD A LIFE OF PROPER CONDUCT?


YES...
WITH THAT, YOU WILL BECOME HONORABLE PEOPLE KNOWN AS SAINTS.

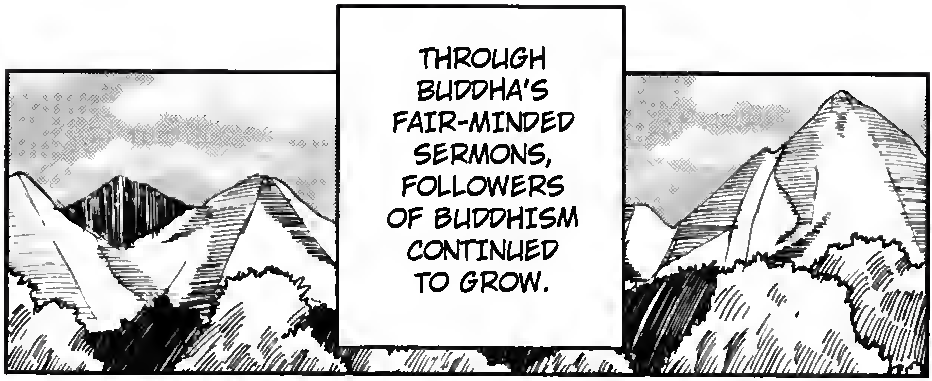

OH...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE!
THEN, BUDDHA... WHAT KIND OF PERSON DOES THE SAINT YOU SPEAK OF LOOK LIKE?

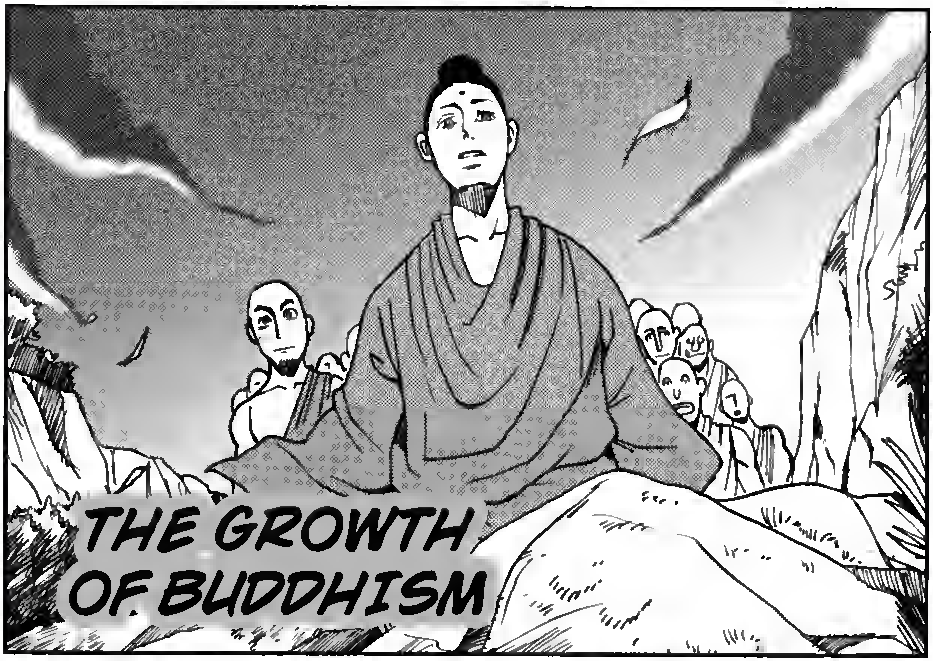

THEY HAVE CONQUERED SLUMBER, LAZINESS, AND DEPRESSION.
OH, WOE IS ME!
SLUMBER AND LAZINESS
THEY HAVE OVERCOME DESIRES OF SLANDER, ANGER, SCHEMING, AND COVETING.
SAINTS ARE NOT ARROGANT NOR DO THEY SPEAK LIES. THEY ARE PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY.
INTEGRITY
CONCEIT
RUDE-NESS
ATTACH-MENT.
BEAUTY
ALSO, THEY DO NOT ATTACH THEMSELVES TO BEAUTY. THEY HAVE ABANDONED THEIR CONCEIT. THEY DO NOT BEHAVE RUDELY, EITHER.
INDOLENCE
PRIDE
SAINTS ARE NOT TO BE INDOLENT, OR HAVE A PRIDEFUL ATTITUDE.

MOREOVER, THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH OLD THINGS, NOR ARE THEY CHARMED BY NEW THINGS.
THEY DO NOT FEEL SADNESS FOR THINGS THAT PERISH, NOR ARE THEY TAKEN BY DELUSORY ATTACHMENTS.
DELUSORY ATTACHMENTS COME FROM GREED...
LIKE A VIOLENT TORRENT, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO OVERCOME IT.


HOWEVER, IF ONE IS ABLE TO OVERCOME IT...
THROUGH CORRECT BEHAVIOR AND A RIGHT LIFESTYLE...

SAINT
THEY WILL RISE ABOVE THE TORRENT WITH A GREAT PEACE OF MIND, NEVER STRAYING FROM THE TRUTH.
THAT IS A SAINT!


THROUGH BUDDHA'S FAIR-MINDED SERMONS, FOLLOWERS OF BUDDHISM CONTINUED TO GROW.


THE GROWTH OF BUDDHISM

BUDDHA, ARE WE REALLY GOING TO REST HERE TONIGHT?

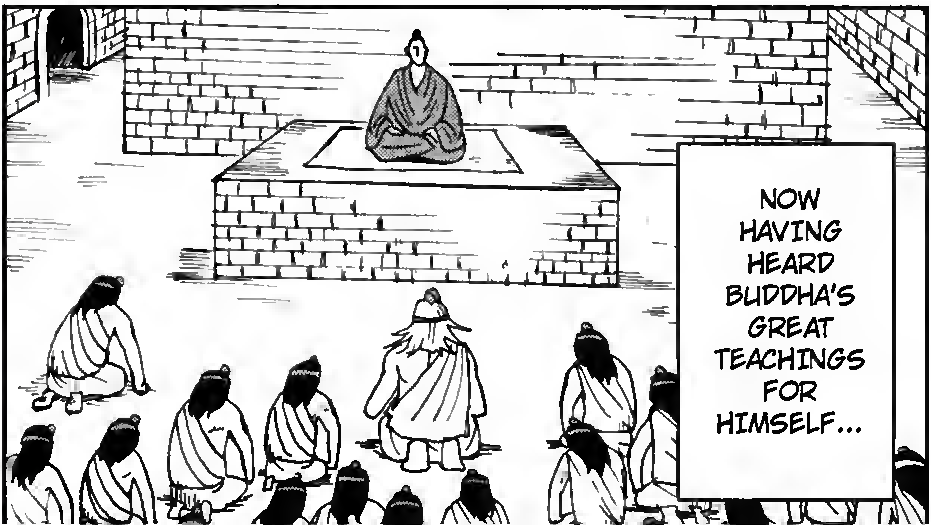
SIGH!
BUDDHA WENT TO THE CAPE OF THE NIRANJARA RIVER, WHERE HE VISITED URUVELA KASSAPA, THE OLDEST OF THREE BROTHERS WHO DID MANY RITUALS TO THE FIRE AND HAD MANY FOLLOWERS.
THE KASSAPAS FOLLOWED THE VEDAS TRADITION AND WORSHIPPED FIRE, SO THIS VISIT WAS A FORM OF CHALLENGE BY BUDDHA.

MAY WE REST AT YOUR TEMPLE FOR THE NIGHT?
CERTAINLY, BUT BE WARNED THAT THERE IS A LARGE SERPENT THAT'S KNOWN TO COME IN HERE.
STILL INTERESTED?
THAT'S FINE.
WELL THEN, ENJOY YOUR STAY!
SNEER
HMPH! YOU THINK YOU'RE THE BUDDHA, HUH? I'LL TEACH YOU A LITTLE LESSON!
URUVELA, THE OLDEST OF THE KASSAPA BROTHERS, WAS ARROGANT TOWARD THE SPIRITUALLY AWAKENED BUDDHA.
THE NEXT MORNING ...

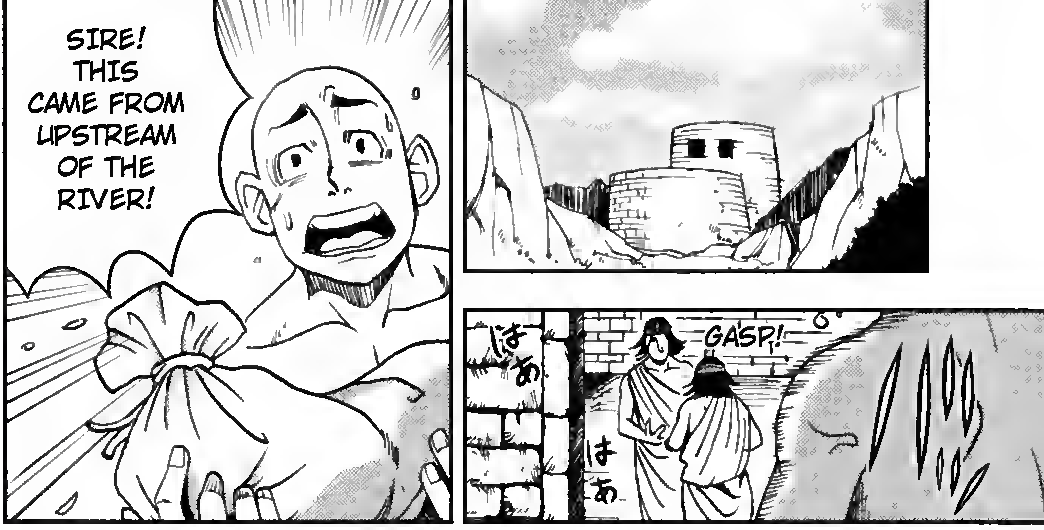
STEP
HOW COULD THIS BE?!
NGGHH!
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE WOUND ON YOU...
OH, URUVELA, IS THIS THE SERPENT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
CHATTER
CHATTER
DAMMIT! BUDDHA, I WON'T BE SO EASILY CONVINCED!

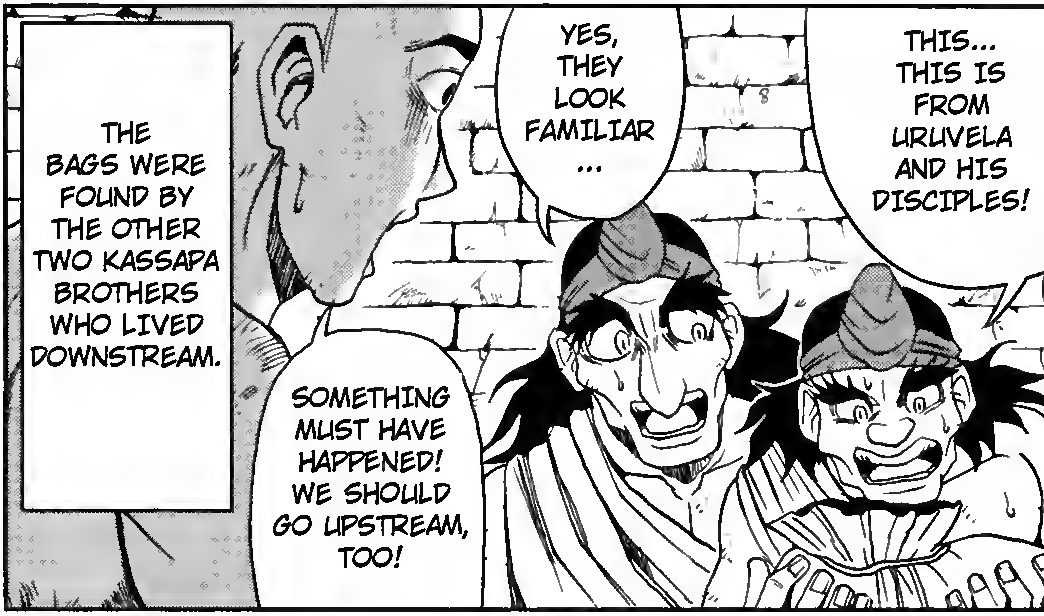
VERY WELL THEN. LISTEN TO ME NOW WHILE I SHARE...
I BET YOU CALL YOURSELF THE BUDDHA AFTER SOME SIMPLE REVELATIONS!
HAVE YOU REALLY DISCOVERED SOME AMAZING TRUTH?!
TO BEGIN, THERE ARE FOUR SUFFERINGS IN A PERSON'S LIFE...
ALSO... ...
CHATTER
CHATTER
COLLAPSE

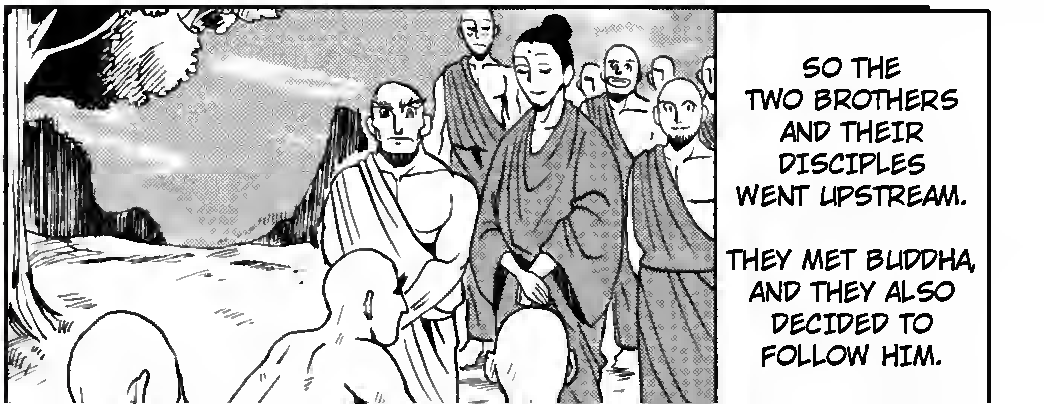
URUVELA, THIS WORLD IS BURNING FROM THE FLAMES OF DESIRES!
AS FOR THE TRUE PATH... ONLY BY GOING THROUGH THE EIGHTFOLD PATH WILL YOU FIND TRUE FREEDOM!
I... I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU, BUDDHA!
BUDDHA, WITH HIS POWERFUL TEACHING AND DIVINE POWER,
CONVINCED URUVELA, THE OLDEST KASSAPA BROTHER, AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

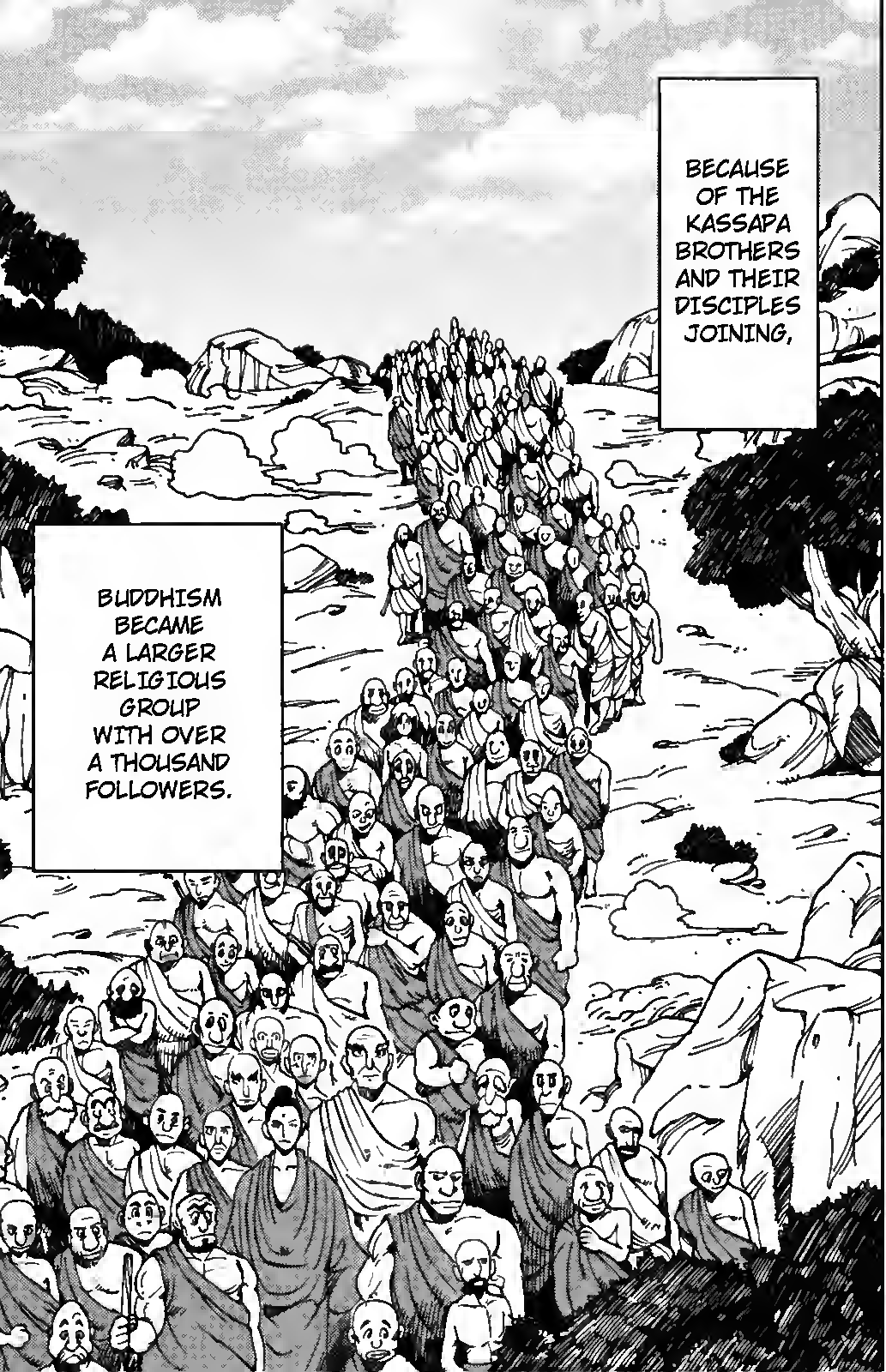

NOW HAVING HEARD BUDDHA'S GREAT TEACHINGS FOR HIMSELF...

I HAVE DECIDED TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO BUDDHA'S MISSION!
THOSE WHO WISH TO FOLLOW ME SHOULD SHAVE OFF THEIR HAIR AND PUT IT IN A BAG!
FWOP!
WITH 500 FOLLOWERS, THE OLDEST KASSAPA BROTHER THREW HIS HAIR INTO A BAG.
ALONG WITH THE RITUAL TOOLS OF FIRE, THEY THREW THE BAGS DOWN THE NIRANJARA RIVER.


SIRE! THIS CAME FROM UPSTREAM OF THE RIVER!
GASP!
はあ
はあ

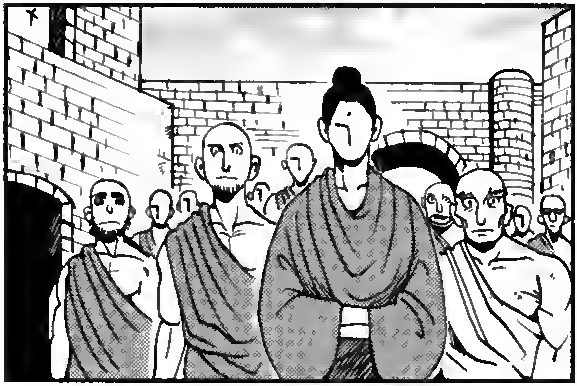

THE BAGS WERE FOUND BY THE OTHER TWO KASSAPA BROTHERS WHO LIVED DOWNSTREAM.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! WE SHOULD GO UPSTREAM, TOO!
YES, THEY LOOK FAMILIAR ...
THIS... THIS IS FROM URUVELA AND HIS DISCIPLES!

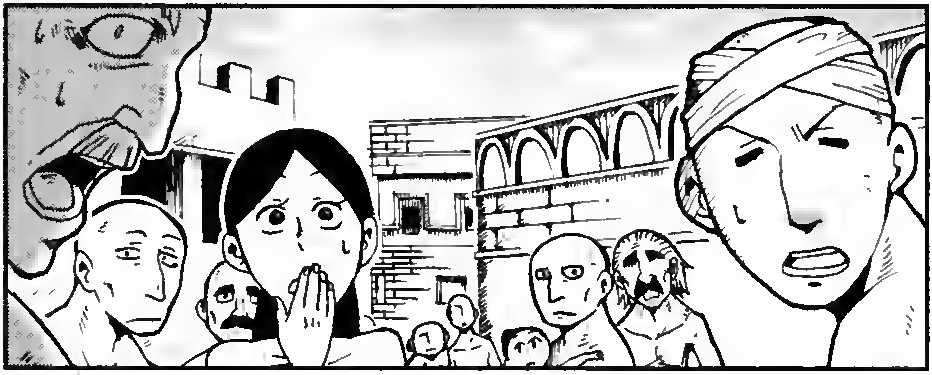

SO THE TWO BROTHERS AND THEIR DISCIPLES WENT UPSTREAM.
THEY MET BUDDHA, AND THEY ALSO DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM.


BECAUSE OF THE KASSAPA BROTHERS AND THEIR DISCIPLES JOINING,
BUDDHISM BECAME A LARGER RELIGIOUS GROUP WITH OVER A THOUSAND FOLLOWERS.

THE REST OF YOU, PLEASE WAIT HERE!

ONE DAY, BUDDHA TOOK HIS FOLLOWERS TO VISIT THE MAGADHA KINGDOM.





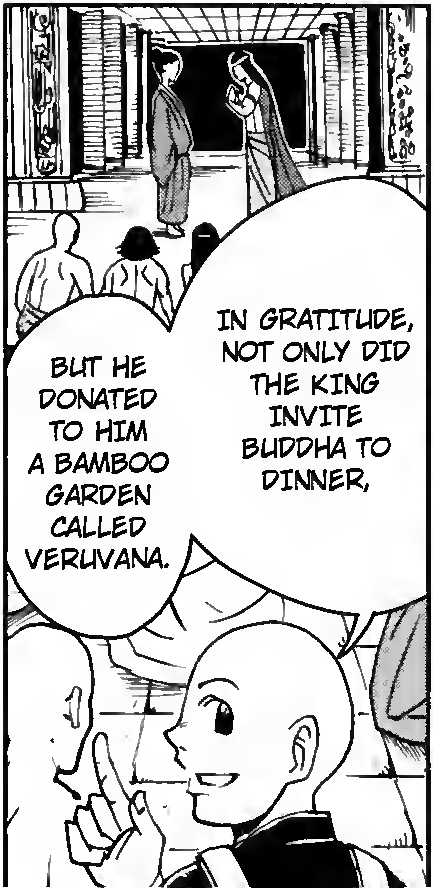
THAT'S THE BUDDHA PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT...
EVEN THE OLDEST KASSAPA BROTHER FOLLOWS HIM!
THAT SHRAMANA MUST BE SOME PERSON!

BUDDHA, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE KING OF MAGADHA.
YOU KNOW THE KING HIMSELF?
YES.
BACK WHEN I HAD FIRST BECOME A MONK...

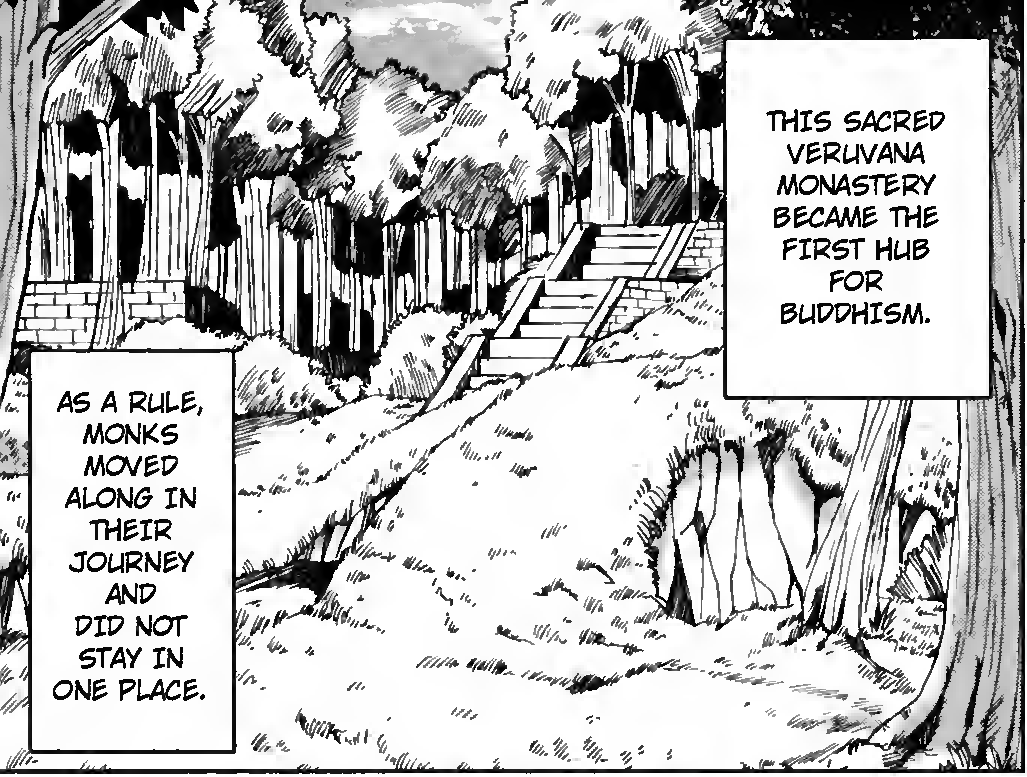
HUH?
WHY, YOU'RE THE...
OH SHRAMANA, MAY I HAVE SOME OF YOUR TIME?
YES, I AM KING BIMBISARA, RULER OF THE MAGADHA KINGDOM.
I SAW YOU REQUESTING ALMS IN TOWN AND SENSED THAT YOU WERE NO ORDINARY PERSON. SO I TRACED YOUR ORIGINS AND PINPOINTED YOU HERE...
SHRAMANA... OR RATHER, SHOULD I SAY, PRINCE SIDDHARTHA OF THE SHAKYA TRIBE! HOW ABOUT YOU AND I HELP EACH OTHER BUILD OUR KINGDOMS?
I MUST REFUSE.
I SEEK A DIFFERENT PATH, THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT, AND HAVE THROWN AWAY THOSE WORLDLY AMBITIONS EVER SINCE.
.....
IS THAT SO? SUCH A PITY...

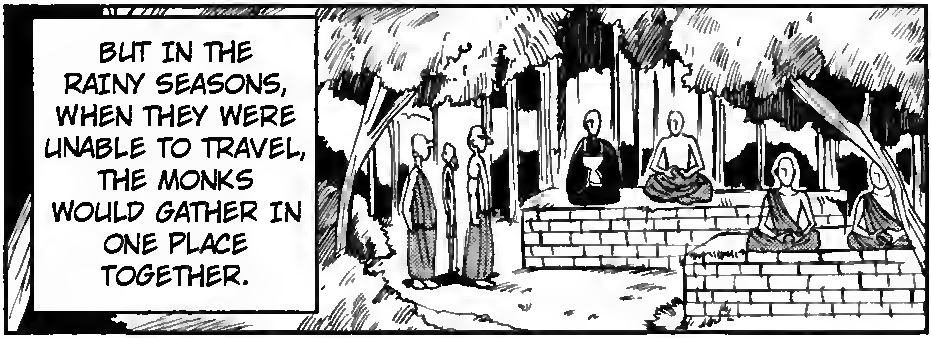
AND I MADE A PROMISE TO HIM...
AS SOON AS I ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT, I WOULD VISIT MAGADHA AND SHARE WITH HIM MY TEACHINGS.
STAND
OF COURSE, KING BIMBISARA !
AH! YOU'VE FINALLY COME!
YOU REMEMBERED YOUR PROMISE!

AND BUDDHA WAS ABLE TO TEACH HIS WISDOM TO NOT ONLY THE KING OF MAGADHA, BUT TO MANY PEOPLE IN THE KINGDOM.
KING BIMBISARA WAS HAPPY TO SEE BUDDHA AGAIN,


IN GRATITUDE, NOT ONLY DID THE KING INVITE BUDDHA TO DINNER,
BUT HE DONATED TO HIM A BAMBOO GARDEN CALLED VERUVANA.

AS A RESULT, THE KING AND MANY OF HIS PEOPLE BECAME FOLLOWERS OF BUDDHISM.
BREATHE


THIS SACRED VERUVANA MONASTERY BECAME THE FIRST HUB FOR BUDDHISM.
AS A RULE, MONKS MOVED ALONG IN THEIR JOURNEY AND DID NOT STAY IN ONE PLACE.


BUT IN THE RAINY SEASONS, WHEN THEY WERE UNABLE TO TRAVEL, THE MONKS WOULD GATHER IN ONE PLACE TOGETHER.

ALTHOUGH BUDDHISM WAS OFFICIALLY FOUNDED WHEN BUDDHA GAVE HIS FIRST SERMON TO THE FIVE MONKS,
MANY MORE MONKS CAME TO LIVE IN ONE PLACE AS A RESULT OF THE VERUVANA MONASTERY.

THE FIVE PRECEPTS

ABSTAIN FROM TAKING LIFE.

ABSTAIN FROM STEALING.

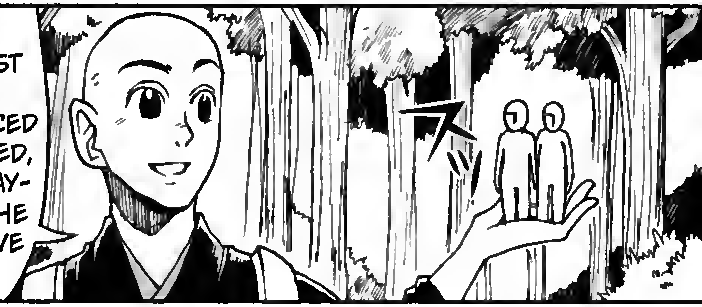
ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

ABSTAIN FROM LYING.

ABSTAIN FROM ALCOHOL.

FROM THIS, THE BUDDHIST PRACTITIONER'S SET OF PRECEPTS EMERGED.

ALSO, THERE WERE TWO TYPES OF BUDDHIST PRACTITIONERS: THE MONK WHO RENOUNCED THE WORLD AND PREACHED, AND THE SUPPORTING LAY-PERSON WHO OBEYED THE FIVE PRECEPTS AND GAVE DONATIONS.

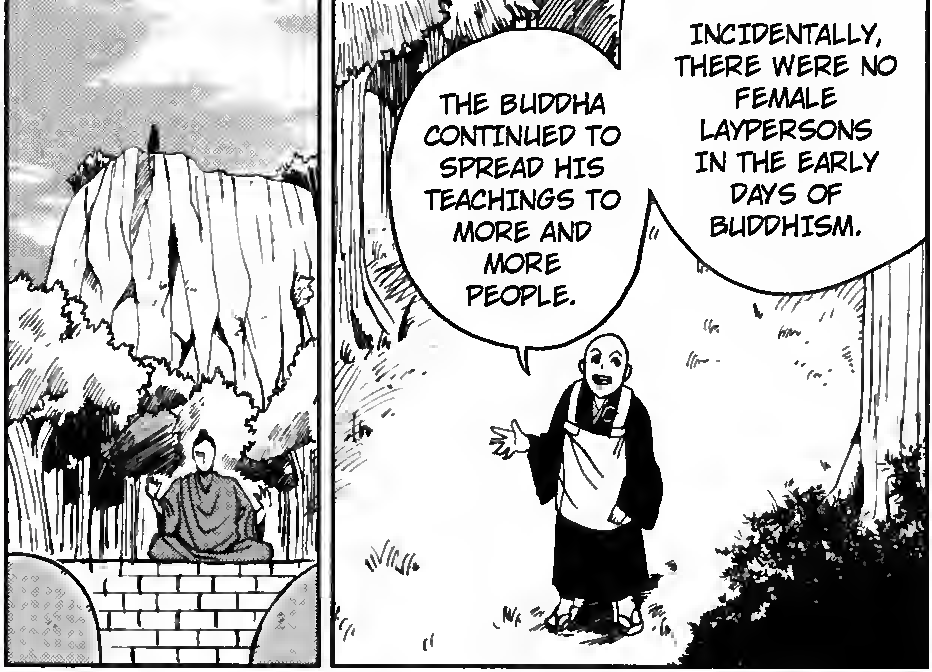


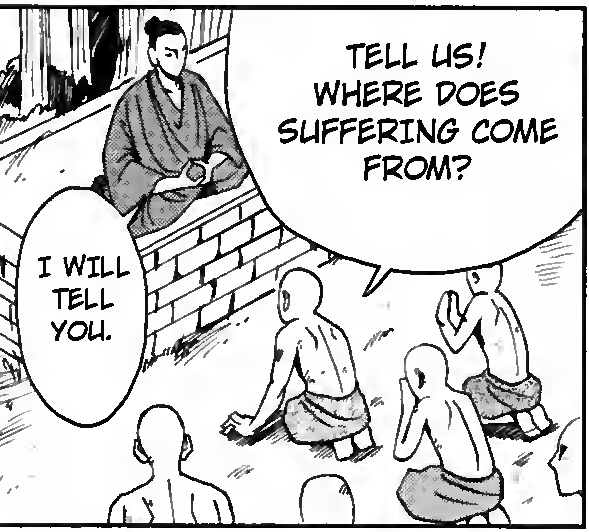
MALE MONKS ARE CALLED BUDDHIST PRIESTS AND FEMALE MONKS ARE CALLED BUDDHIST NUNS.

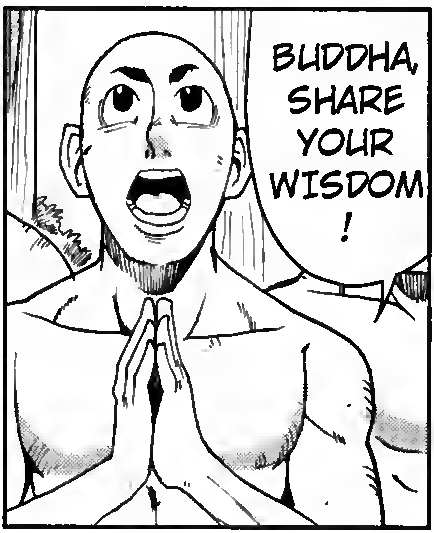
MALE LAYPERSONS ARE KNOWN AS UPASAKA AND FEMALE LAYPERSONS ARE KNOWN AS UPASIKA.

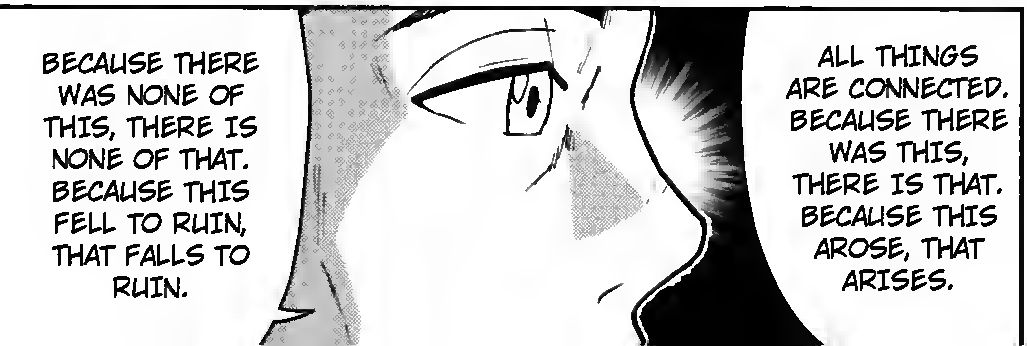
MONK

LAYPERSON

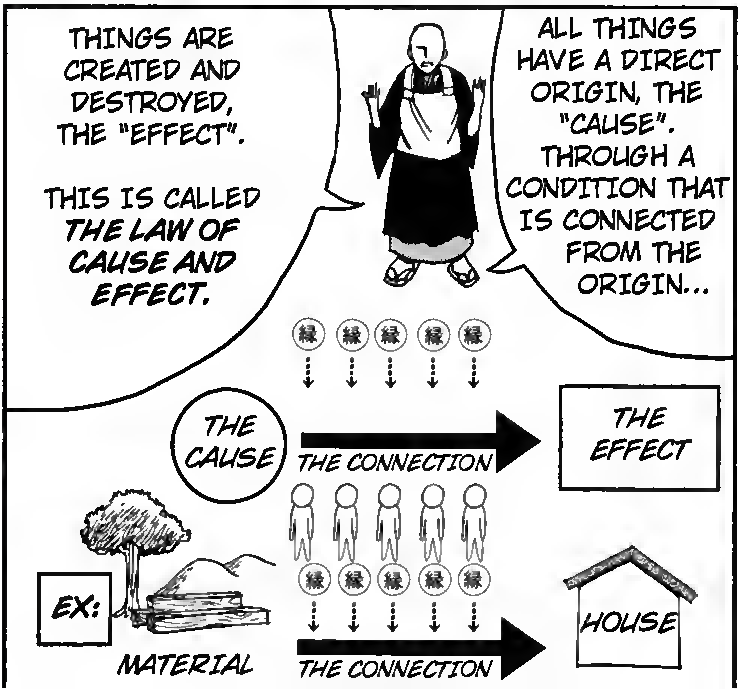

THE BUDDHA CONTINUED TO SPREAD HIS TEACHINGS TO MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.
INCIDENTALLY, THERE WERE NO FEMALE LAYPERSONS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF BUDDHISM.

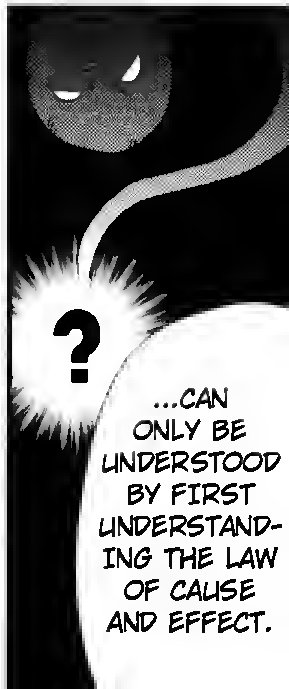

I WILL TELL YOU.
TELL US! WHERE DOES SUFFERING COME FROM?

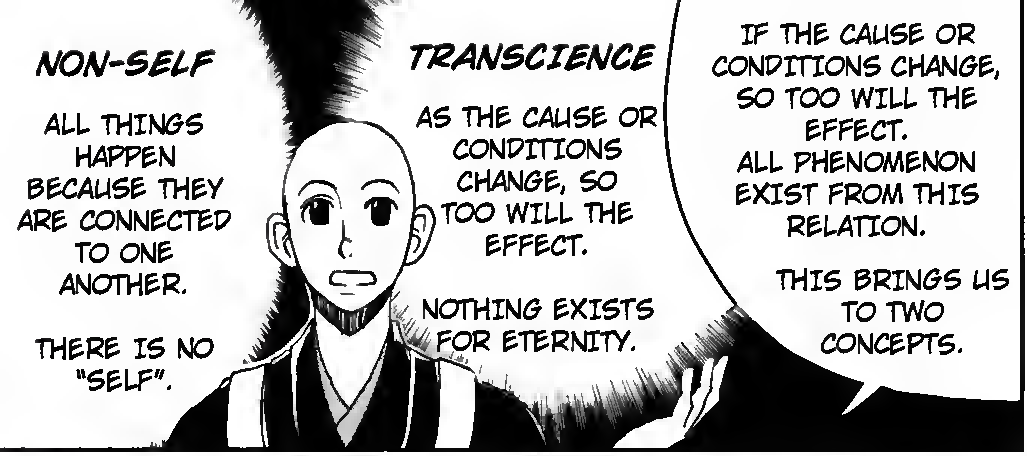

BUDDHA, SHARE YOUR WISDOM!

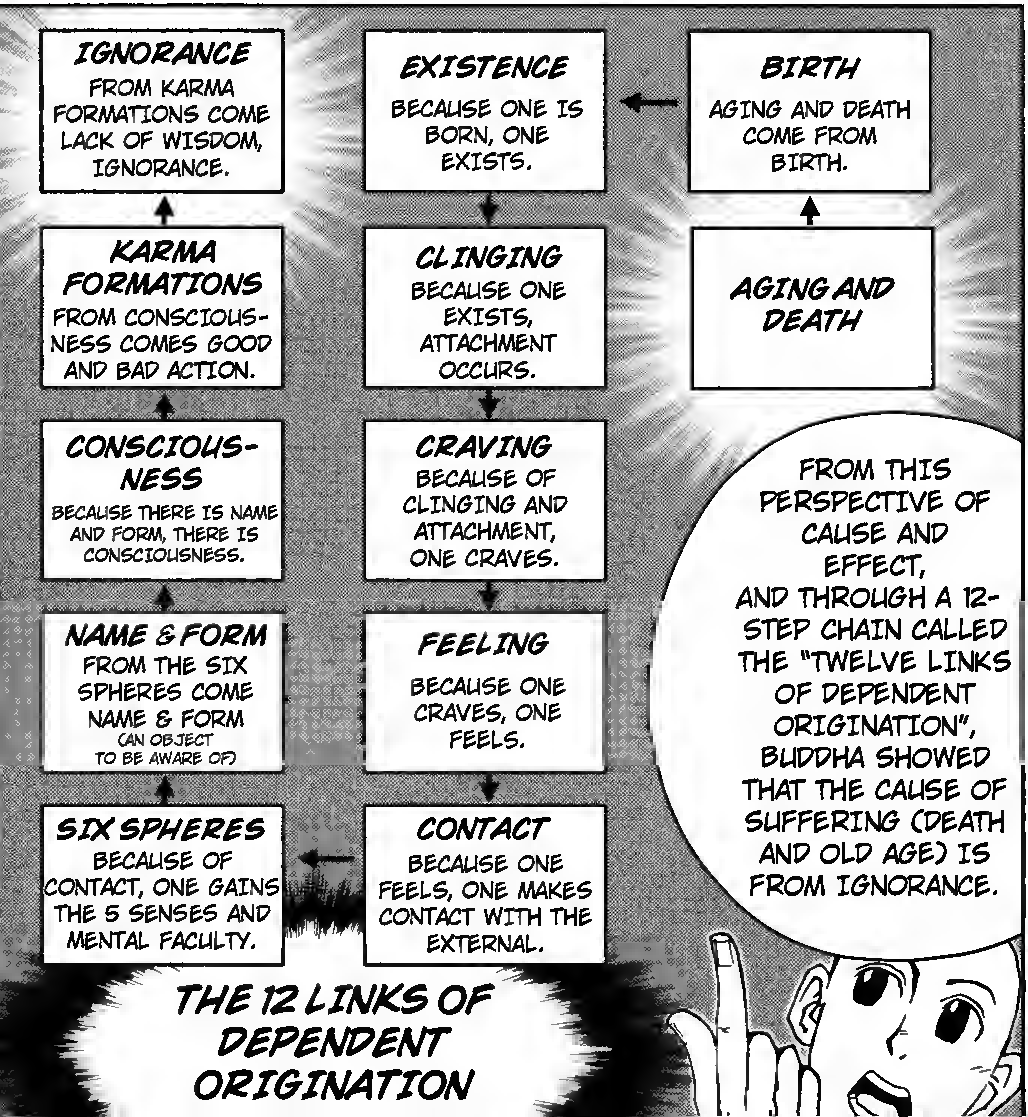

BECAUSE THERE WAS NONE OF THIS, THERE IS NONE OF THAT. BECAUSE THIS FELL TO RUIN, THAT FALLS TO RUIN.
ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED. BECAUSE THERE WAS THIS, THERE IS THAT. BECAUSE THIS AROSE, THAT ARISES.

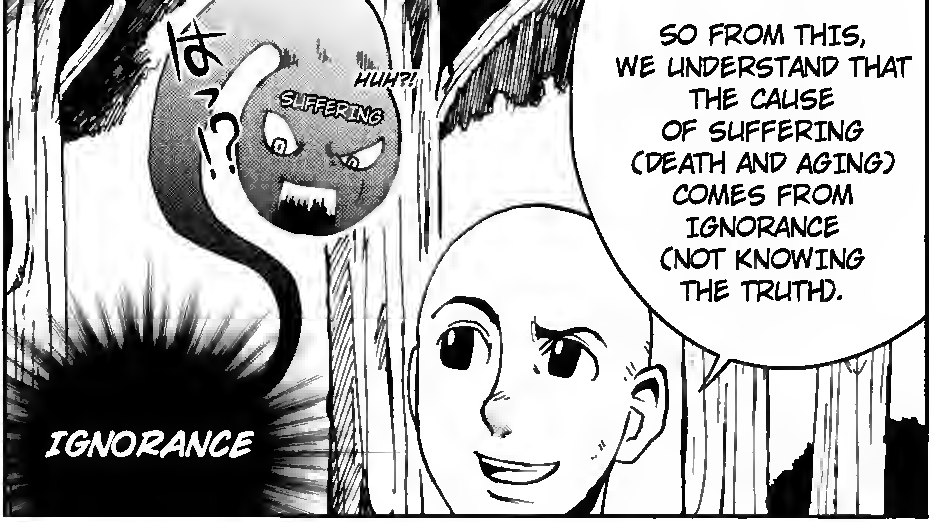
IN ORDER TO KNOW WHERE SUFFERING COMES FROM...
ALL THINGS OF THIS WORLD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY CAUSE AND EFFECT.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT EVERYTHING HAS A CONNECTION.
THE SOURCE OF SUFFER-ING...

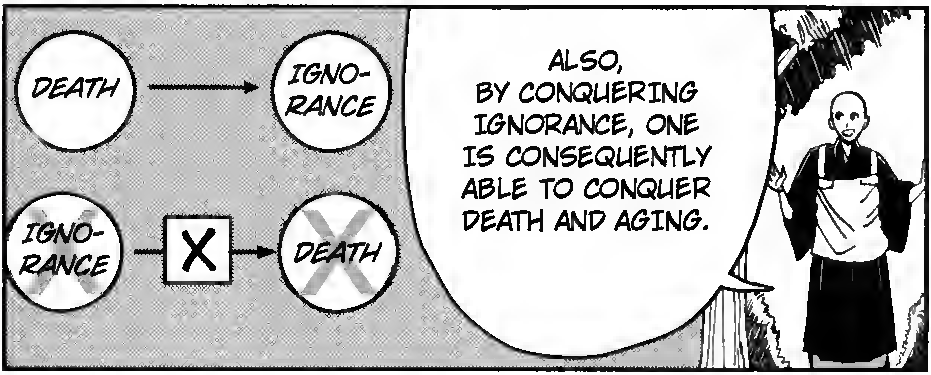

THINGS ARE CREATED AND DESTROYED, THE "EFFECT".
THIS IS CALLED THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.
ALL THINGS HAVE A DIRECT ORIGIN, THE "CAUSE". THROUGH A CONDITION THAT IS CONNECTED FROM THE ORIGIN...
縁 縁 縁 縁 縁
THE CAUSE
THE CONNECTION
THE EFFECT
EX:
MATERIAL
縁 縁 縁 縁 縁
THE CONNECTION
HOUSE


?
...CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY FIRST UNDERSTAND-ING THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.


NON-SELF
ALL THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY ARE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER.
THERE IS NO "SELF".
TRANSCIENCE
AS THE CAUSE OR CONDITIONS CHANGE, SO TOO WILL THE EFFECT.
NOTHING EXISTS FOR ETERNITY.
IF THE CAUSE OR CONDITIONS CHANGE, SO TOO WILL THE EFFECT.
ALL PHENOMENON EXIST FROM THIS RELATION.
THIS BRINGS US TO TWO CONCEPTS.

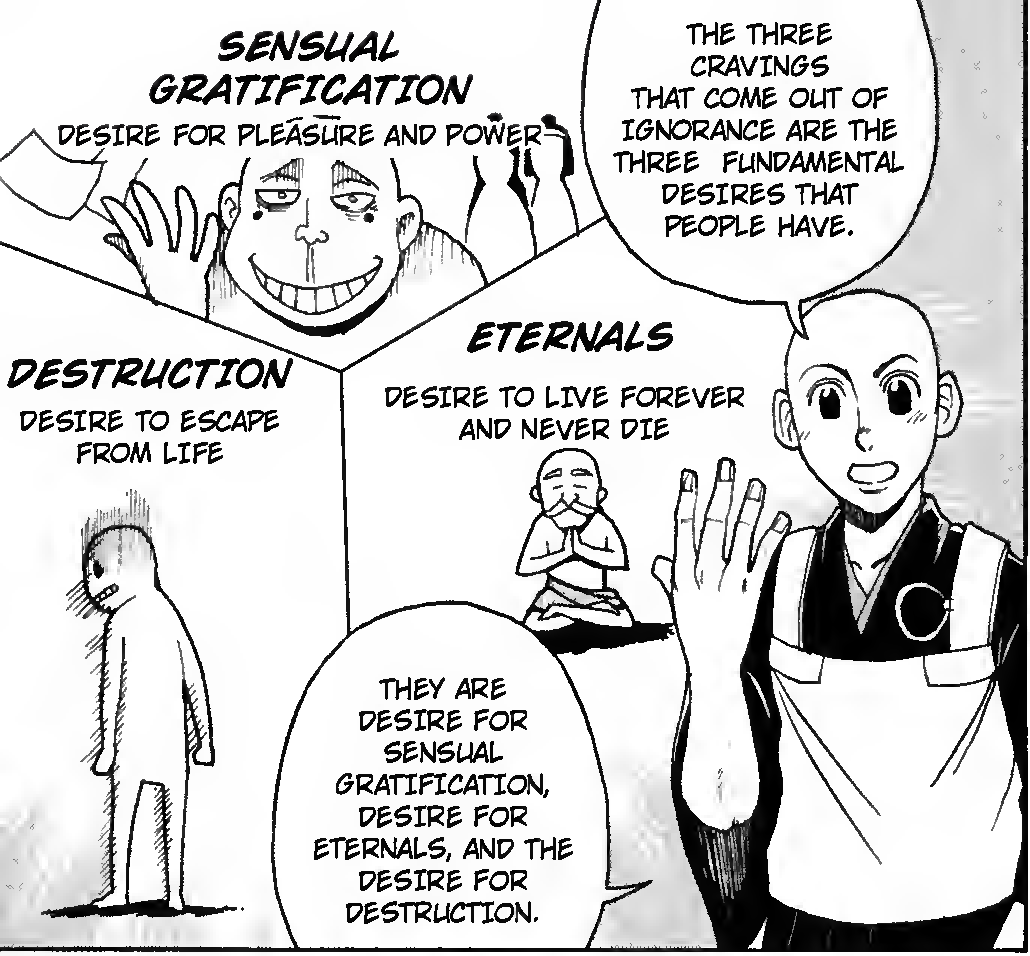

IGNORANCE
FROM KARMA FORMATIONS COME LACK OF WISDOM, IGNORANCE.
KARMA FORMATIONS
FROM CONSCIOUSNESS COMES GOOD AND BAD ACTION.
CONSCIOUSNESS
BECAUSE THERE IS NAME AND FORM, THERE IS CONSCIOUSNESS.
NAME & FORM
FROM THE SIX SPHERES COME NAME & FORM
(AN OBJECT TO BE AWARE OF)
SIX SPHERES
BECAUSE OF CONTACT, ONE GAINS THE 5 SENSES AND MENTAL FACULTY.
CONTACT
BECAUSE ONE FEELS, ONE MAKES CONTACT WITH THE EXTERNAL.
FEELING
BECAUSE ONE CRAVES, ONE FEELS.
CRAVING
BECAUSE OF CLINGING AND ATTACHMENT, ONE CRAVES.
CLINGING
BECAUSE ONE EXISTS, ATTACHMENT OCCURS.
EXISTENCE
BECAUSE ONE IS BORN, ONE EXISTS.
BIRTH
AGING AND DEATH COME FROM BIRTH.
AGING AND DEATH
FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT, AND THROUGH A 12-STEP CHAIN CALLED THE "TWELVE LINKS OF DEPENDENT ORIGINATION", BUDDHA SHOWED THAT THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING (DEATH AND OLD AGE) IS FROM IGNORANCE.
THE 12 LINKS OF DEPENDENT ORIGINATION

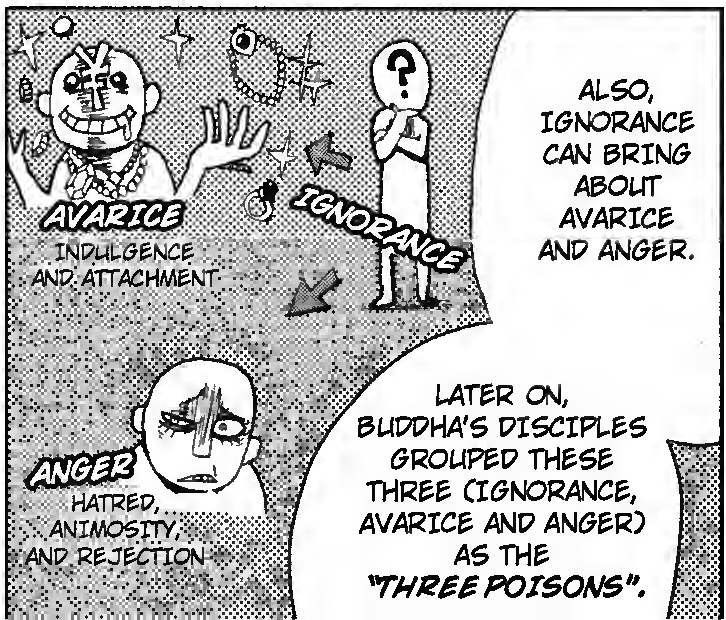

IGNORANCE
SUFFERING
HUH?!
SO FROM THIS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING (DEATH AND AGING) COMES FROM IGNORANCE (NOT KNOWING THE TRUTH).


DEATH
IGNO-RANCE
IGNO-RANCE
X
DEATH
ALSO, BY CONQUERING IGNORANCE, ONE IS CONSEQUENTLY ABLE TO CONQUER DEATH AND AGING.

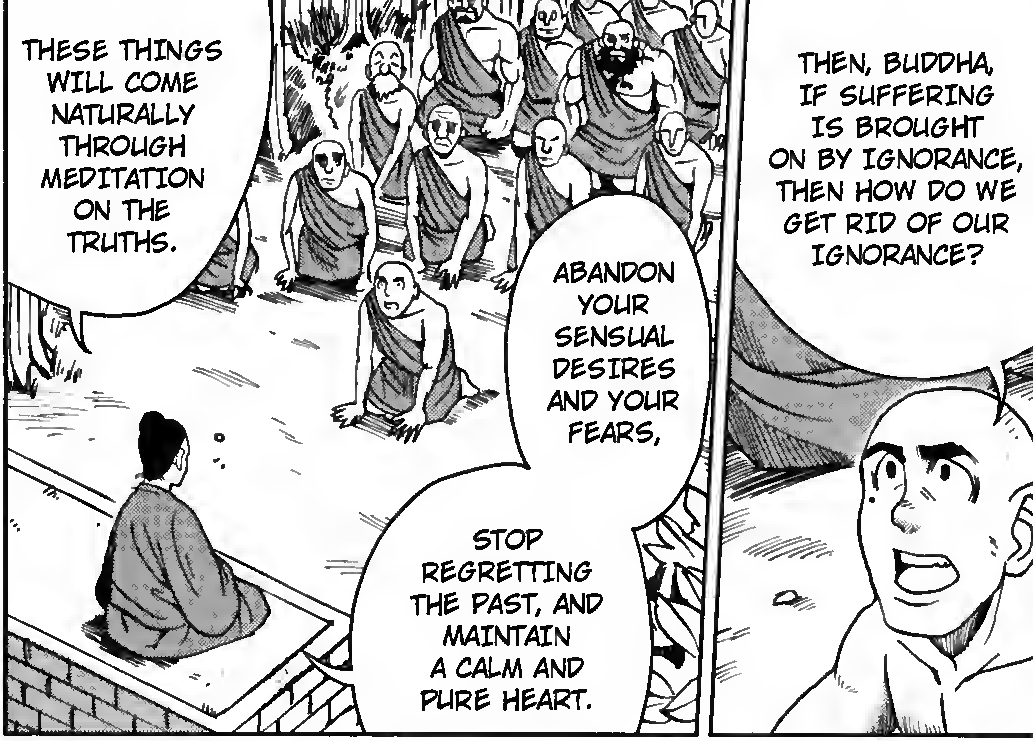
AND IGNORANCE LEADS TO CRAVINGS AND DESIRES.
YES. IGNORANCE IS BEING BLIND TO THE TRUTH; IT IS NOT KNOWING.

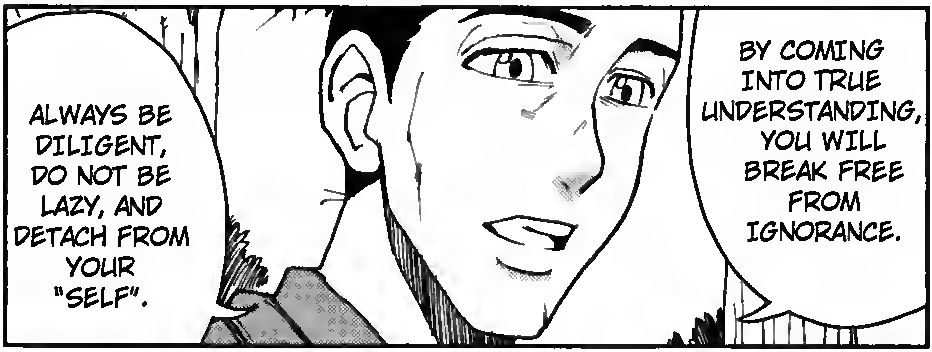
IGNORANCE... SO THAT'S THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING!

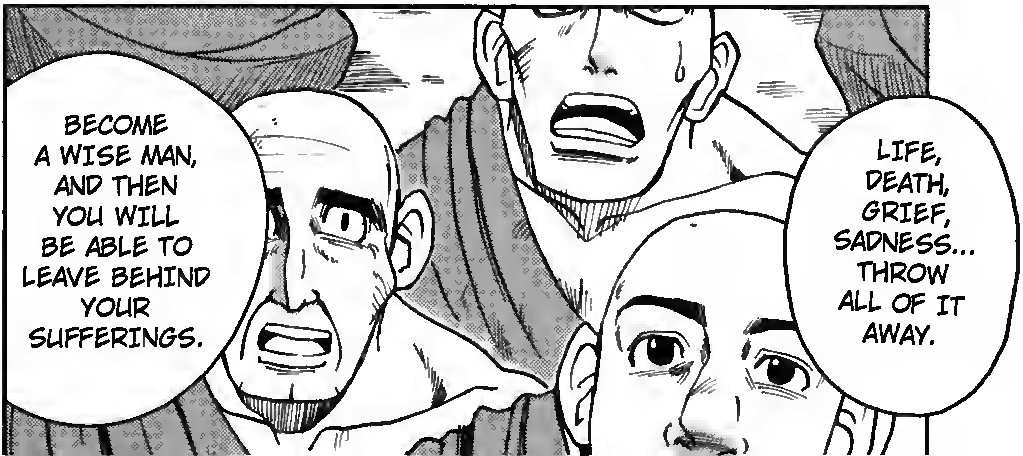

SENSUAL GRATIFICATION
DESIRE FOR PLEASURE AND POWER
THE THREE CRAVINGS THAT COME OUT OF IGNORANCE ARE THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL DESIRES THAT PEOPLE HAVE.
ETERNALS
DESIRE TO LIVE FOREVER AND NEVER DIE
DESTRUCTION
DESIRE TO ESCAPE FROM LIFE
THEY ARE DESIRE FOR SENSUAL GRATIFICATION, DESIRE FOR ETERNALS, AND THE DESIRE FOR DESTRUCTION.

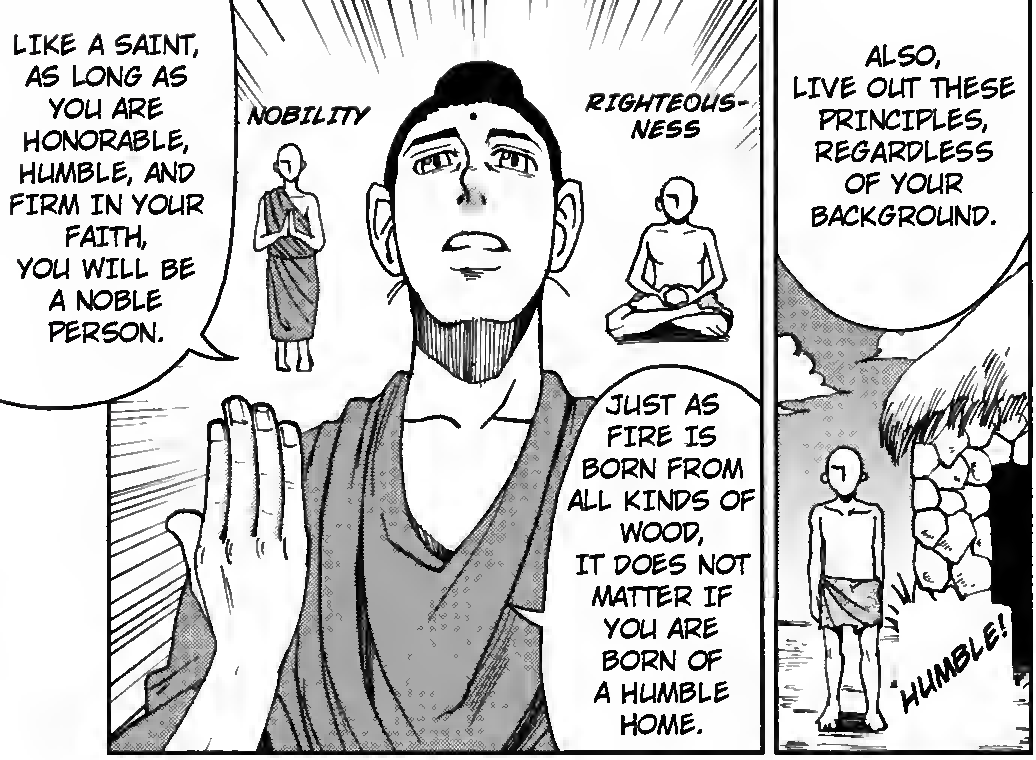

AVARICE
INDULGENCE AND ATTACHMENT
IGNORANCE
ANGER
HATRED, ANIMOSITY, AND REJECTION
ALSO, IGNORANCE CAN BRING ABOUT AVARICE AND ANGER.
LATER ON, BUDDHA'S DISCIPLES GROUPED THESE THREE (IGNORANCE, AVARICE AND ANGER) AS THE "THREE POISONS".

*CLASSIFICATION OF POISON MAY DIFFER DEPENDING ON DENOMINATION.

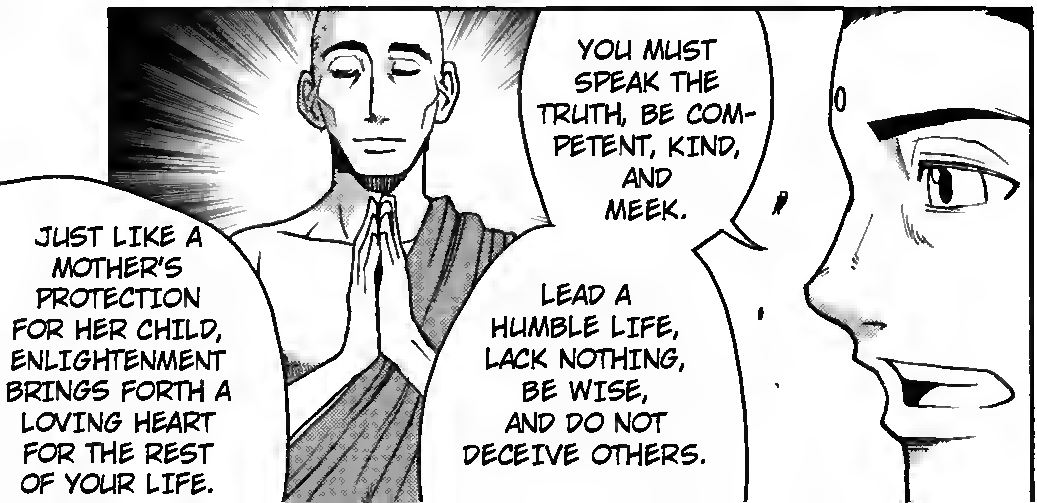

THESE THINGS WILL COME NATURALLY THROUGH MEDITATION ON THE TRUTHS.
ABANDON YOUR SENSUAL DESIRES AND YOUR FEARS,
STOP REGRETTING THE PAST, AND MAINTAIN A CALM AND PURE HEART.
THEN, BUDDHA, IF SUFFERING IS BROUGHT ON BY IGNORANCE, THEN HOW DO WE GET RID OF OUR IGNORANCE?


ALWAYS BE DILIGENT, DO NOT BE LAZY, AND DETACH FROM YOUR "SELF".
BY COMING INTO TRUE UNDERSTANDING, YOU WILL BREAK FREE FROM IGNORANCE.

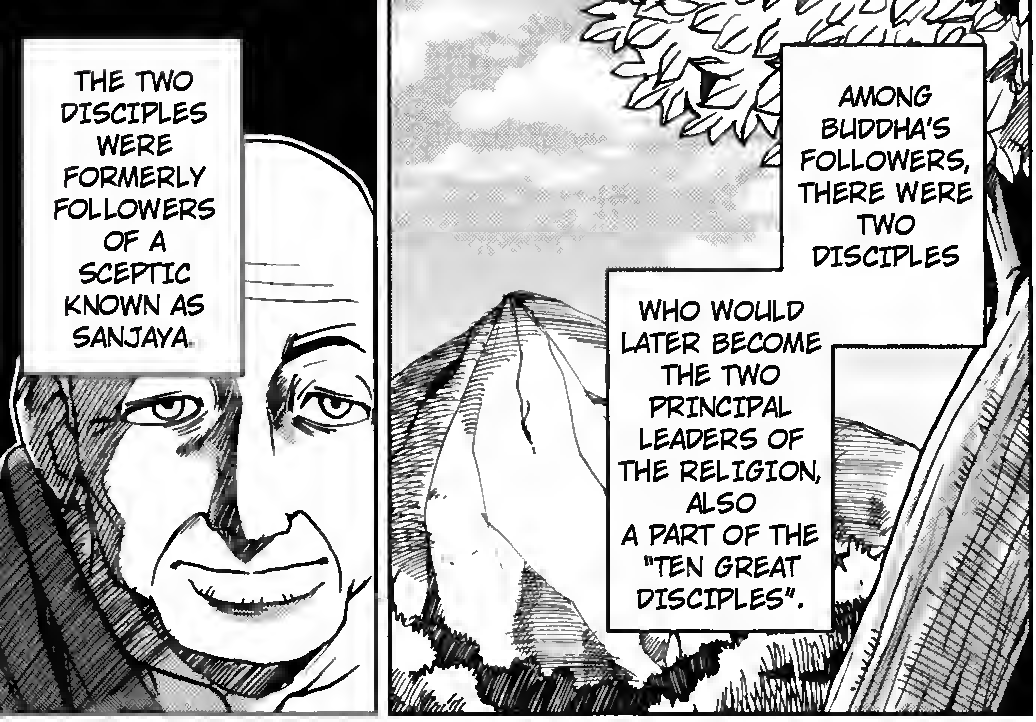

BECOME A WISE MAN, AND THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR SUFFERINGS.
LIFE, DEATH, GRIEF, SADNESS... THROW ALL OF IT AWAY.

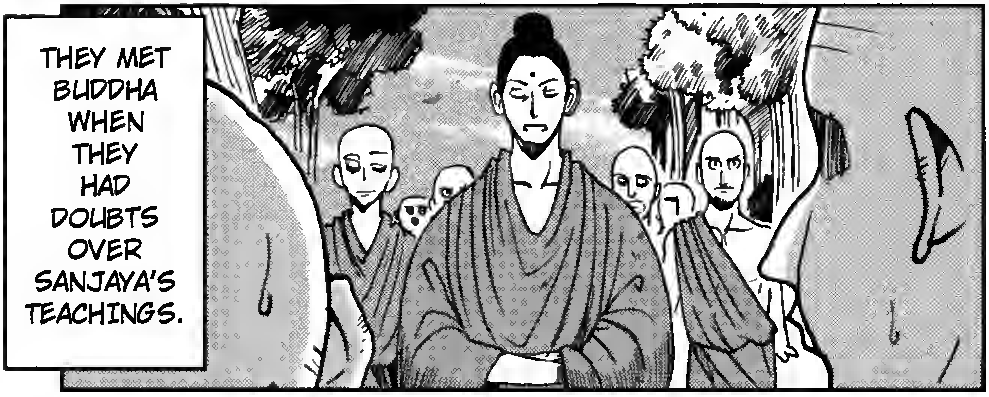

LIKE A SAINT, AS LONG AS YOU ARE HONORABLE, HUMBLE, AND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, YOU WILL BE A NOBLE PERSON.
NOBILITY
RIGHTEOUSNESS
JUST AS FIRE IS BORN FROM ALL KINDS OF WOOD, IT DOES NOT MATTER IF YOU ARE BORN OF A HUMBLE HOME.
ALSO, LIVE OUT THESE PRINCIPLES, REGARDLESS OF YOUR BACKGROUND.
HUMBLE!

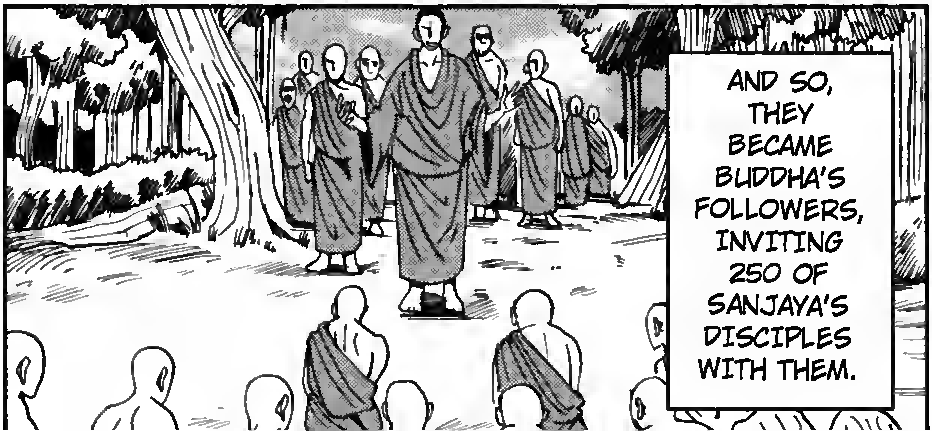
SO, ONCE WE HAVE ATTAINED THE STATE OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND DESTROYED IGNORANCE, WHAT MUST WE DO?

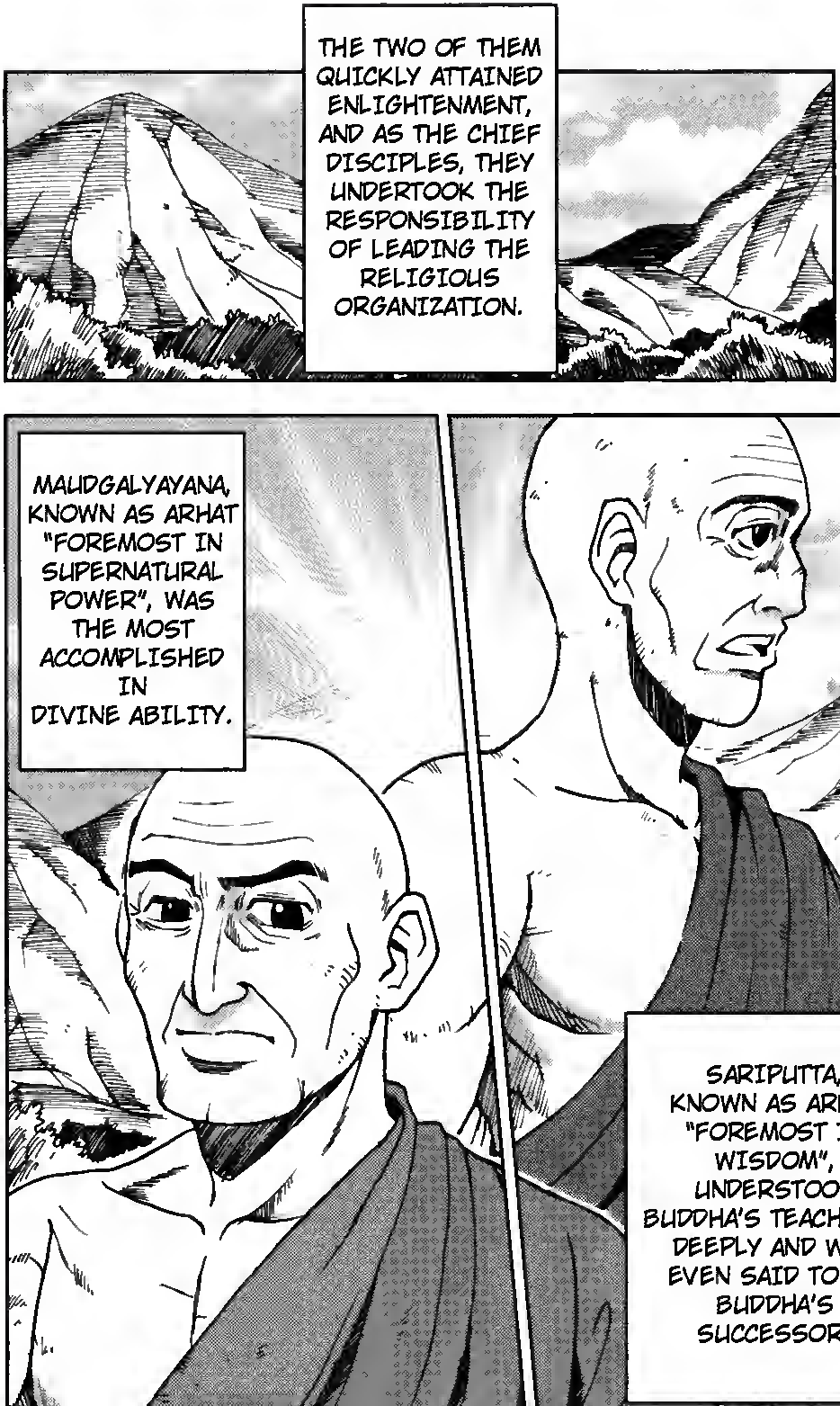

JUST LIKE A MOTHER'S PROTECTION FOR HER CHILD, ENLIGHTENMENT BRINGS FORTH A LOVING HEART FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
LEAD A HUMBLE LIFE, LACK NOTHING, BE WISE, AND DO NOT DECEIVE OTHERS.
YOU MUST SPEAK THE TRUTH, BE COMPETENT, KIND, AND MEEK.

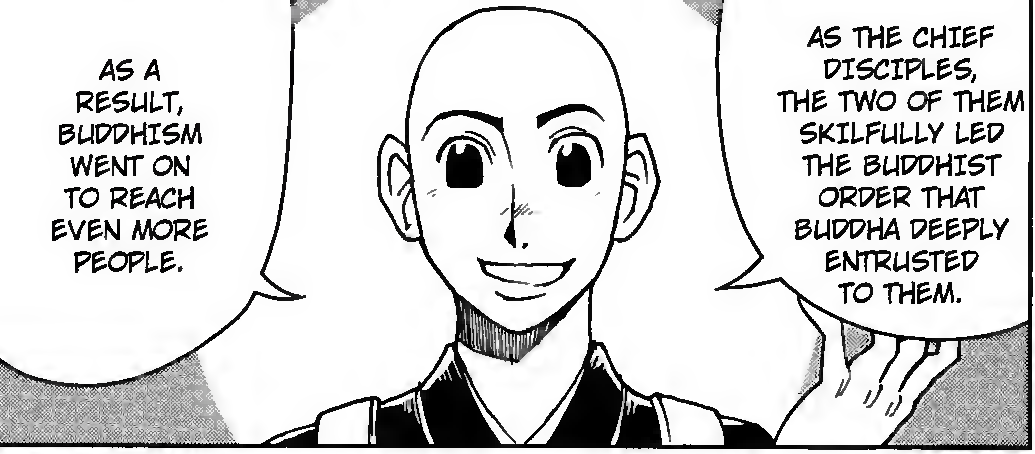
IT SHOULD BRING ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.
YOU SHOULD MAINTAIN THIS HEART AT ALL TIMES.
BUDDHA LED THE PEOPLE, GUIDING THEM TO LOVE ALL LIVING THINGS AND TO LIVE A BLISSFUL LIFE.
THIS IS KNOWN AS THE SUBLIME STATE.

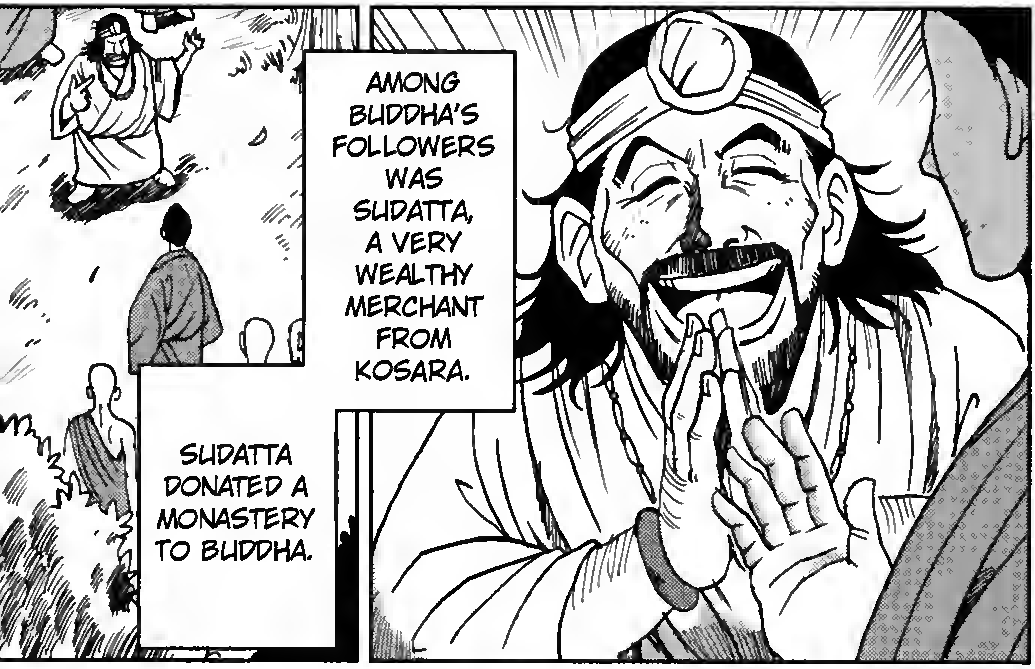

THE TWO DISCIPLES WERE FORMERLY FOLLOWERS OF A SCEPTIC KNOWN AS SANJAYA.
AMONG BUDDHA'S FOLLOWERS, THERE WERE TWO DISCIPLES
WHO WOULD LATER BECOME THE TWO PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE RELIGION, ALSO A PART OF THE "TEN GREAT DISCIPLES".

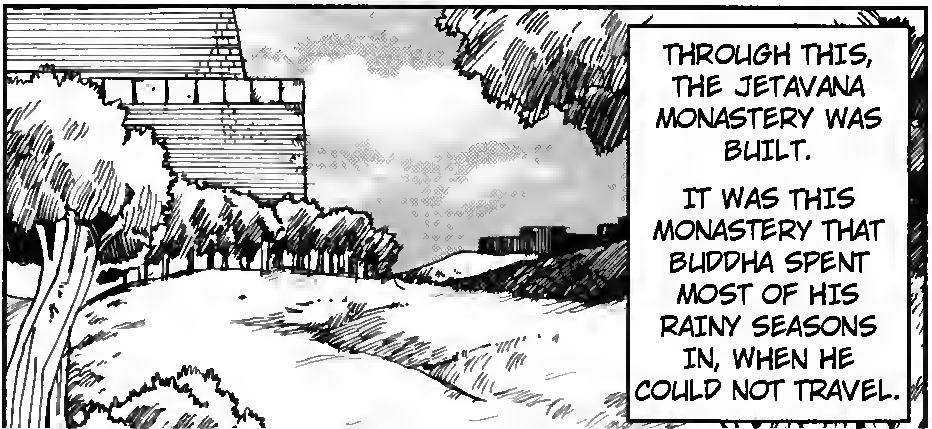

THEY MET BUDDHA WHEN THEY HAD DOUBTS OVER SANJAYA'S TEACHINGS.


AND SO, THEY BECAME BUDDHA'S FOLLOWERS, INVITING 250 OF SANJAYA'S DISCIPLES WITH THEM.


THE TWO OF THEM QUICKLY ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT, AND AS THE CHIEF DISCIPLES, THEY UNDERTOOK THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.
MAUDGALYAYANA, KNOWN AS ARHAT "FOREMOST IN SUPERNATURAL POWER", WAS THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED IN DIVINE ABILITY.
SARIPUTTA, KNOWN AS ARHAT "FOREMOST IN WISDOM", UNDERSTOOD BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS DEEPLY AND WAS EVEN SAID TO BE BUDDHA'S SUCCESSOR.

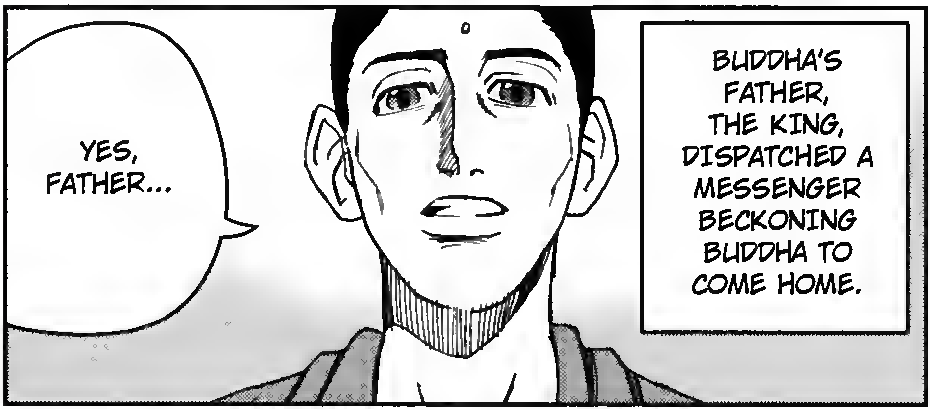

AS A RESULT, BUDDHISM WENT ON TO REACH EVEN MORE PEOPLE.
AS THE CHIEF DISCIPLES, THE TWO OF THEM SKILFULLY LED THE BUDDHIST ORDER THAT BUDDHA DEEPLY ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

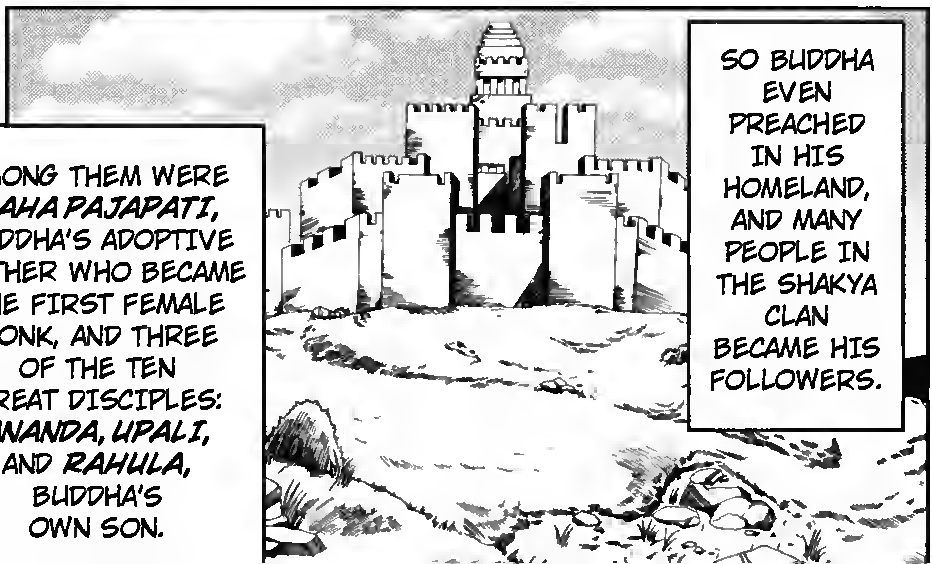

AMONG BUDDHA'S FOLLOWERS WAS SUDATTA, A VERY WEALTHY MERCHANT FROM KOSARA.
SUDATTA DONATED A MONASTERY TO BUDDHA.

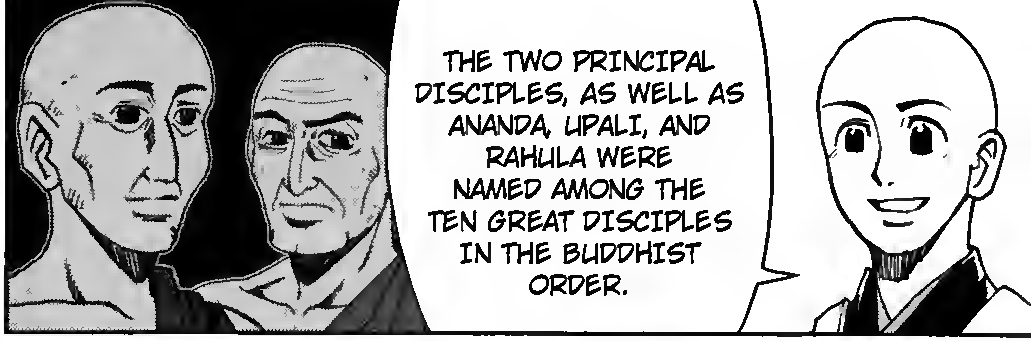

THROUGH THIS, THE JETAVANA MONASTERY WAS BUILT.
IT WAS THIS MONASTERY THAT BUDDHA SPENT MOST OF HIS RAINY SEASONS IN, WHEN HE COULD NOT TRAVEL.

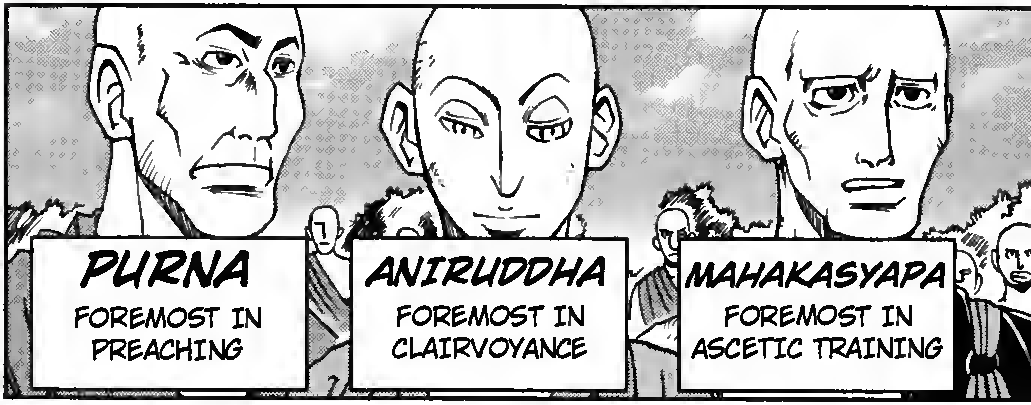
SUDATTA ALSO REQUESTED BUDDHA TO GIVE HIS SERMONS IN KOSARA.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THE KING OF KOSARA AND HIS VASSALS ALSO BECAME FOLLOWERS OF BUDDHA.
WORD OF THIS REACHED BUDDHA'S HOMELAND KAPILAVASTU, AND TO HIS FATHER.

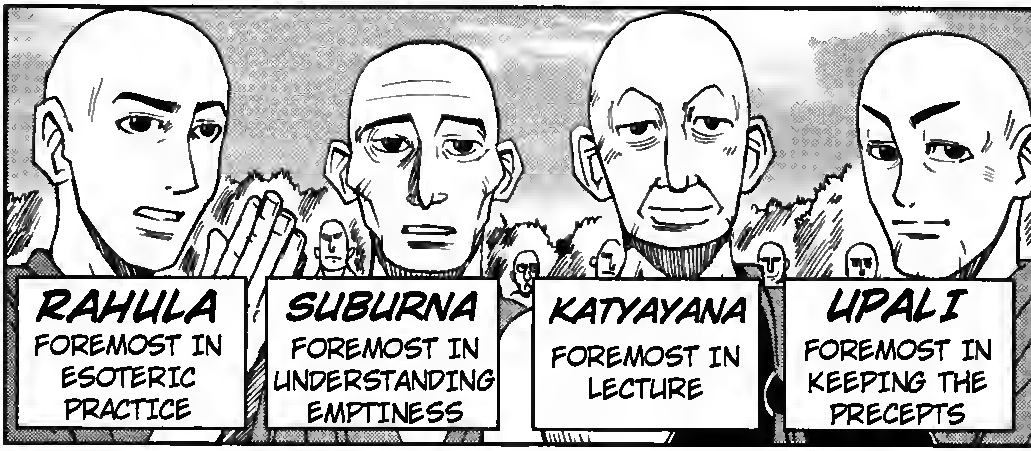
SIDD-
HARTHA
....
OR RATHER,
BUDDHA...
IT'S BEEN
A LONG
TIME.

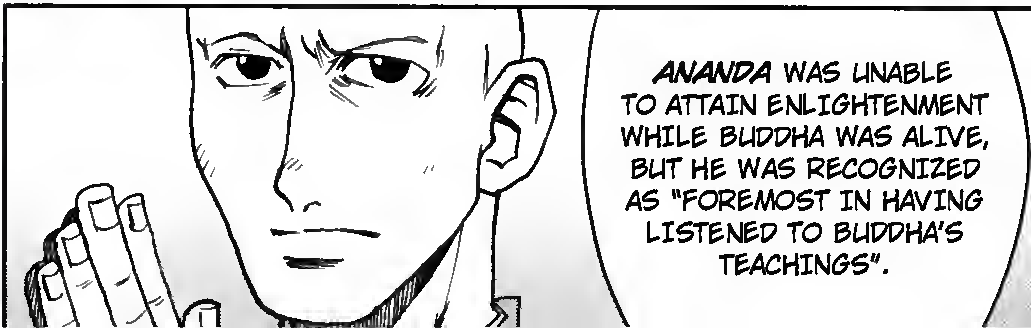

BUDDHA'S
FATHER,
THE KING,
DISPATCHED A
MESSENGER
BECKONING
BUDDHA TO
COME HOME.
YES,
FATHER...


SO BUDDHA
EVEN
PREACHED
IN HIS
HOMELAND,
AND MANY
PEOPLE IN
THE SHAKYA
CLAN
BECAME HIS
FOLLOWERS.
AMONG THEM WERE
MAHA PAJAPATI,
BUDDHA'S ADOPTIVE
MOTHER WHO BECAME
THE FIRST FEMALE
MONK, AND THREE
OF THE TEN
GREAT DISCIPLES:
ANANDA, UPALI,
AND RAHULA,
BUDDHA'S
OWN SON.

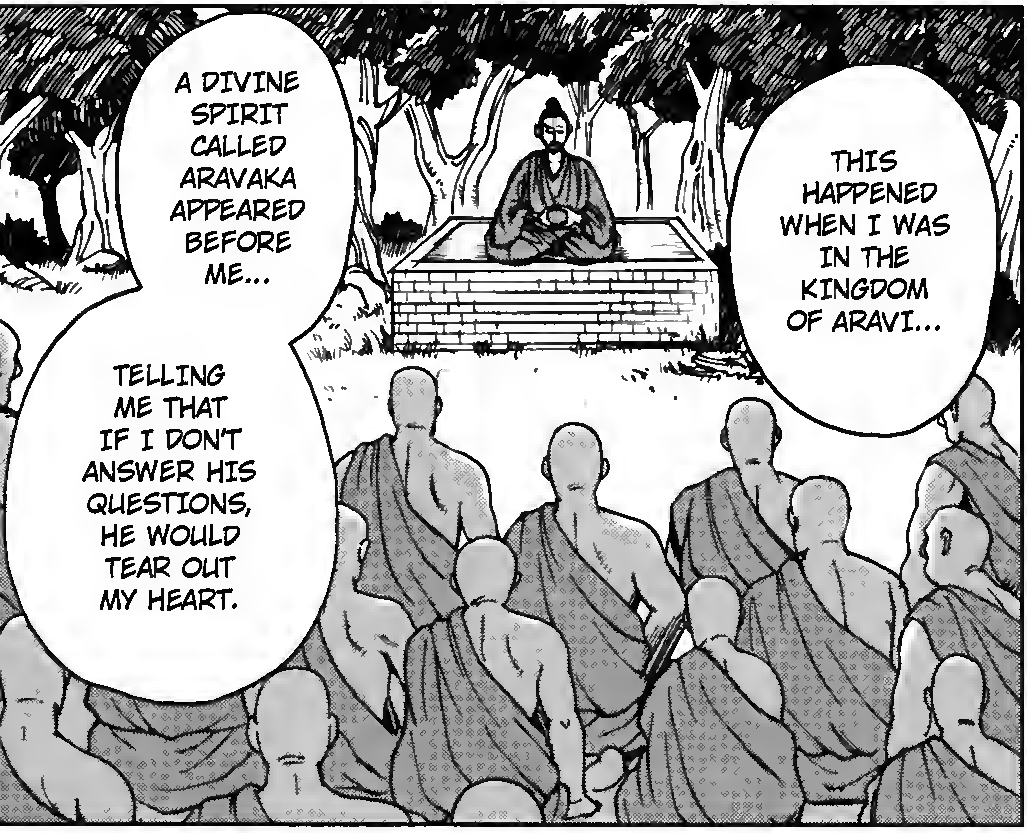

THE TWO PRINCIPAL DISCIPLES, AS WELL AS ANANDA, UPALI, AND RAHULA WERE NAMED AMONG THE TEN GREAT DISCIPLES IN THE BUDDHIST ORDER.

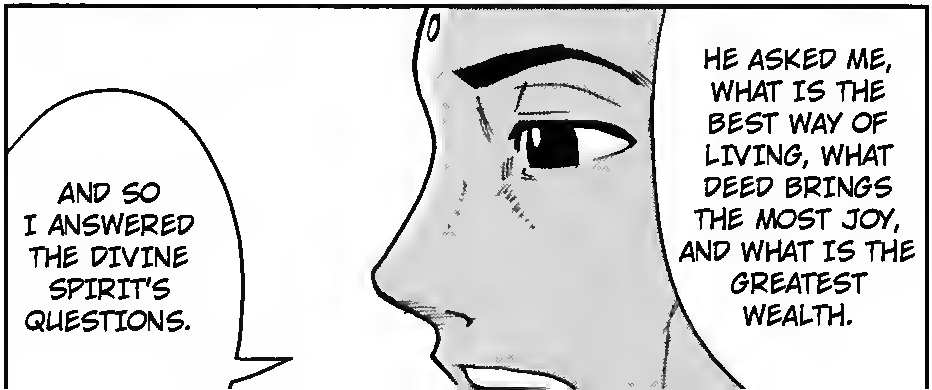

PURNA
FOREMOST IN PREACHING
ANIRUDDHA
FOREMOST IN CLAIRVOYANCE
MAHAKASYAPA
FOREMOST IN ASCETIC TRAINING

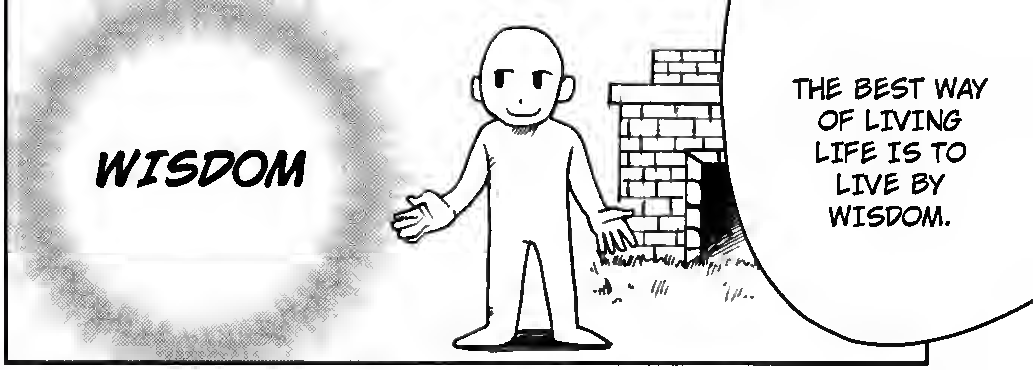

RAHULA
FOREMOST IN ESOTERIC PRACTICE
SUBURNA
FOREMOST IN UNDERSTANDING EMPTINESS
KATYAYANA
FOREMOST IN LECTURE
UPALI
FOREMOST IN KEEPING THE PRECEPTS

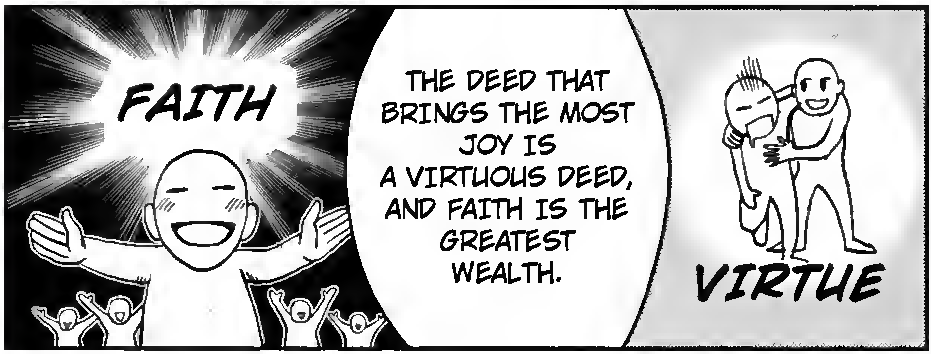

ANANDA WAS UNABLE TO ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT WHILE BUDDHA WAS ALIVE, BUT HE WAS RECOGNIZED AS "FOREMOST IN HAVING LISTENED TO BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS".

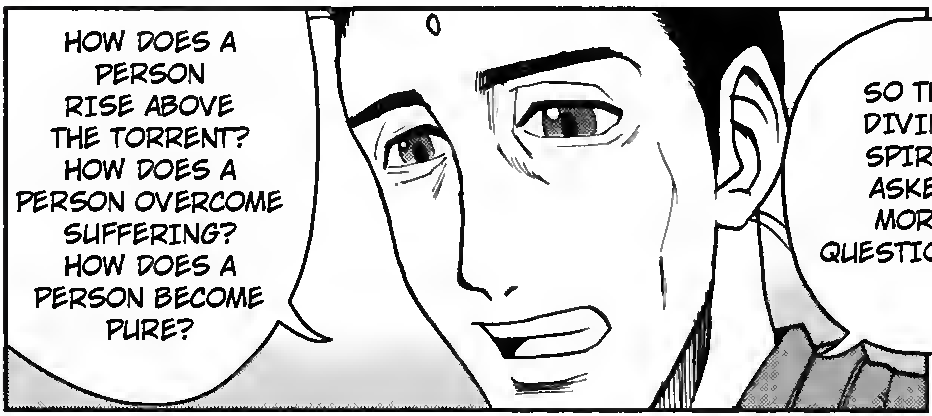
DEATH FROM OLD AGE

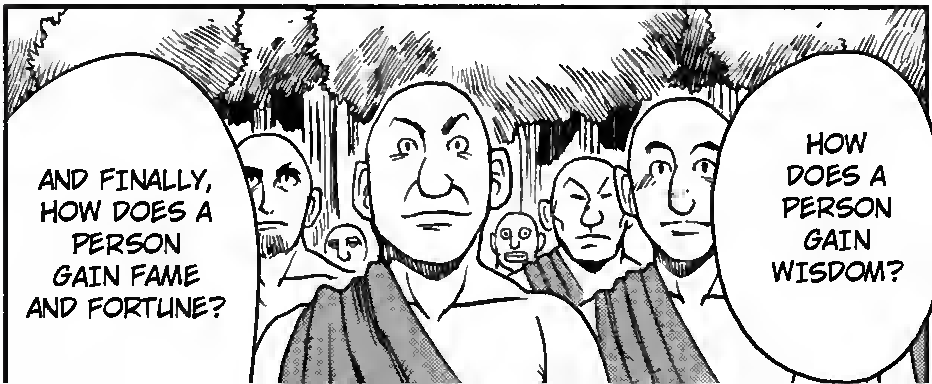

A DIVINE SPIRIT CALLED ARAVAKA APPEARED BEFORE ME...
THIS HAPPENED WHEN I WAS IN THE KINGDOM OF ARAVI...
TELLING ME THAT IF I DON'T ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS, HE WOULD TEAR OUT MY HEART.


HE ASKED ME, WHAT IS THE BEST WAY OF LIVING, WHAT DEED BRINGS THE MOST JOY, AND WHAT IS THE GREATEST WEALTH.
AND SO I ANSWERED THE DIVINE SPIRIT'S QUESTIONS.

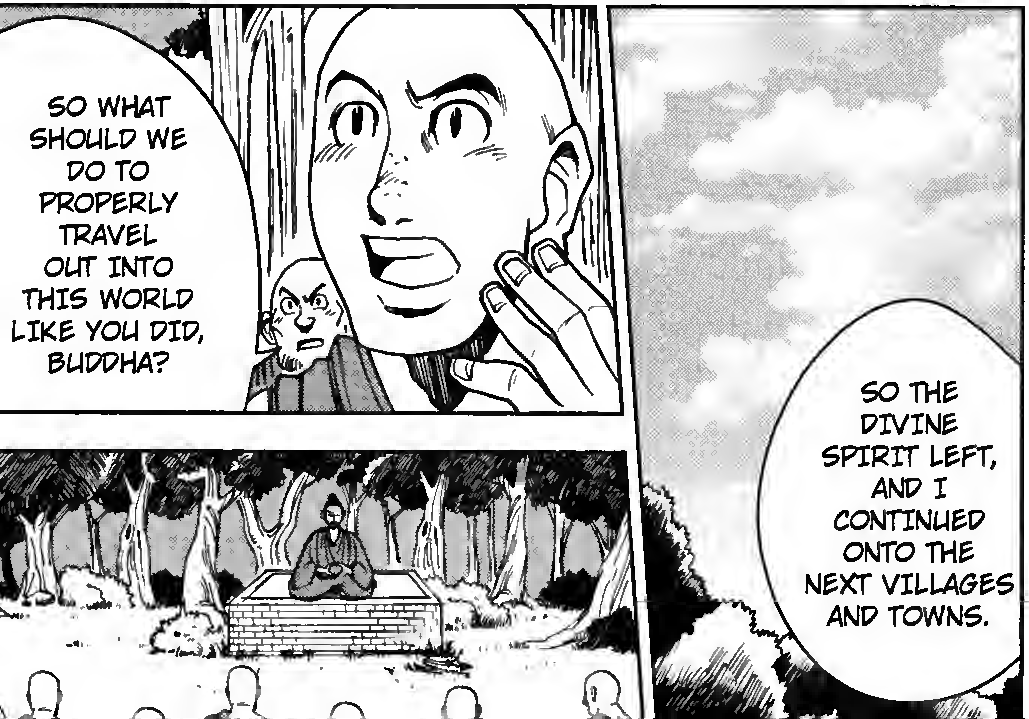

WISDOM
THE BEST WAY OF LIVING LIFE IS TO LIVE BY WISDOM.


FAITH
THE DEED THAT BRINGS THE MOST JOY IS A VIRTUOUS DEED, AND FAITH IS THE GREATEST WEALTH.
VIRTUE

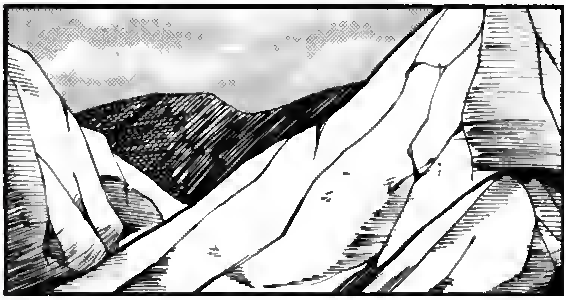

HOW DOES A PERSON RISE ABOVE THE TORRENT? HOW DOES A PERSON OVERCOME SUFFERING? HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME PURE?
SO THE DIVINE SPIRIT ASKED MORE QUESTIONS...

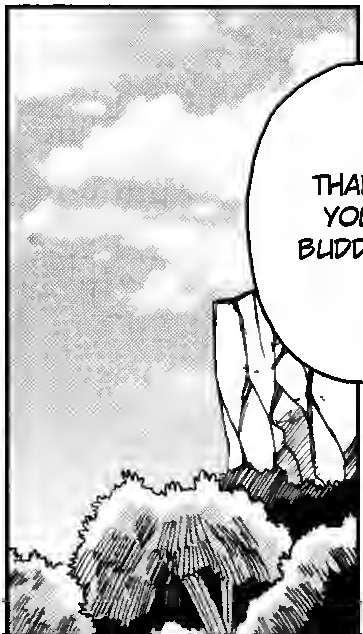

AND FINALLY, HOW DOES A PERSON GAIN FAME AND FORTUNE?
HOW DOES A PERSON GAIN WISDOM?

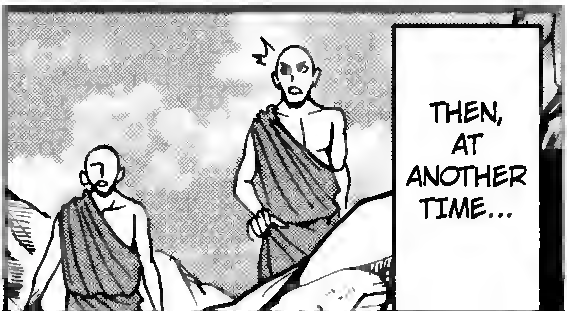
SO I ANSWERED, A PERSON RISES ABOVE THE TORRENT BY FAITH, OVERCOMES SUFFERING BY DILIGENCE,
BECOMES PURE BY WISDOM, AND GAINS WISDOM BY BELIEVING IN THE LAWS AND WISELY SEEKING OUT MORE TEACHINGS.
AND THE ONE WHO WORKS HARD WITH ENDURANCE AND COMMITMENT SHALL USE FORTUNE AND INTEGRITY TO ACQUIRE FAME.


SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO PROPERLY TRAVEL OUT INTO THIS WORLD LIKE YOU DID, BUDDHA?
SO THE DIVINE SPIRIT LEFT, AND I CONTINUED ONTO THE NEXT VILLAGES AND TOWNS.

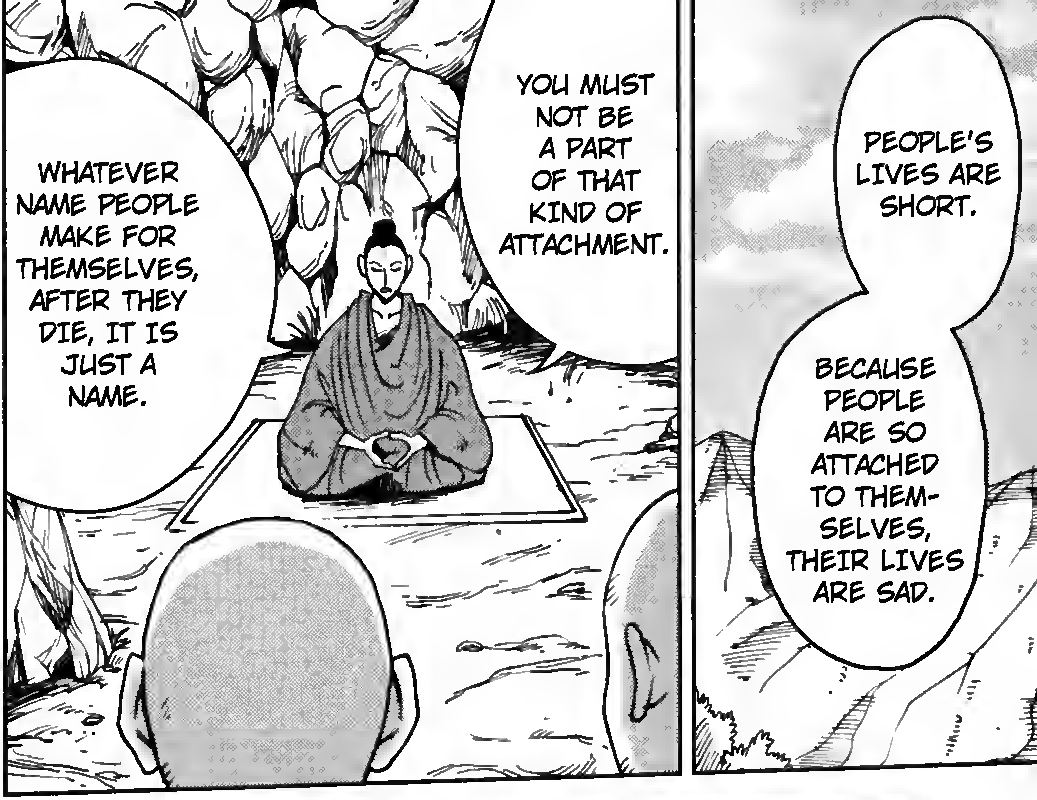
JUDGE EVERYTHING ACCORDINGLY, DO NOT TURN TO FORTUNE-TELLING, RISE ABOVE MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE, AND BE FRUGAL.
ABANDON HATRED AND OBSESSION, KNOW THE LAWS WELL, AND SEEK AFTER THE STATE OF NIRVANA.
THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO TRAVEL OUT INTO THIS WORLD.

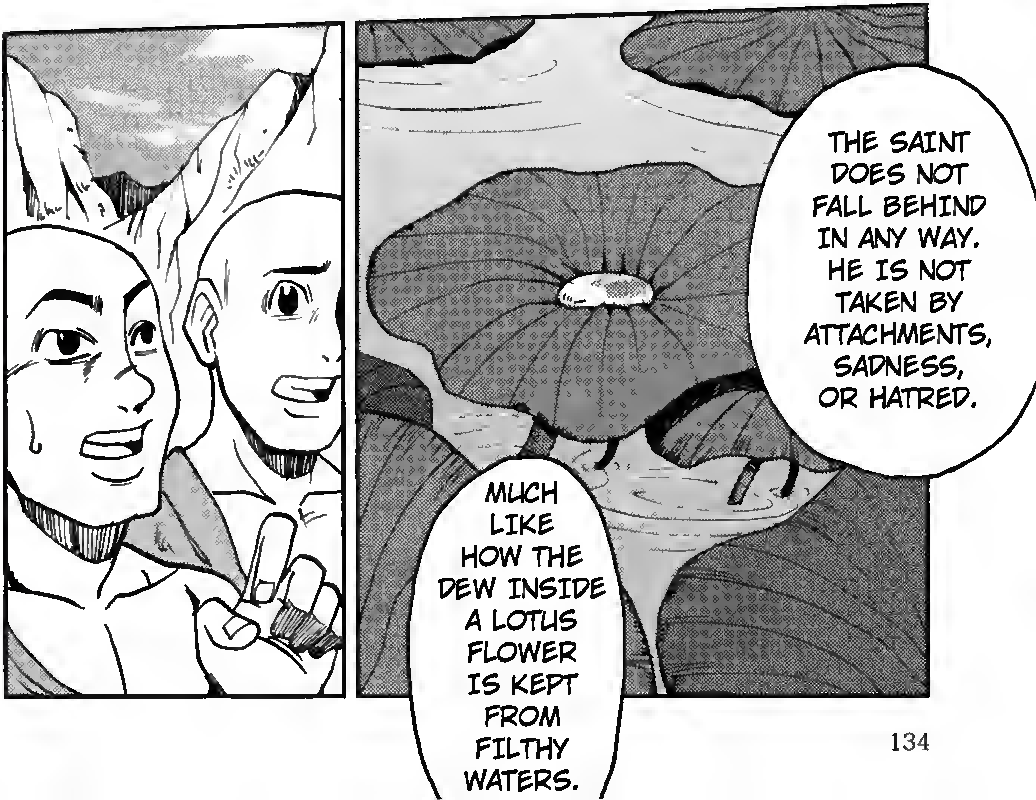



THANK YOU, BUDDHA.

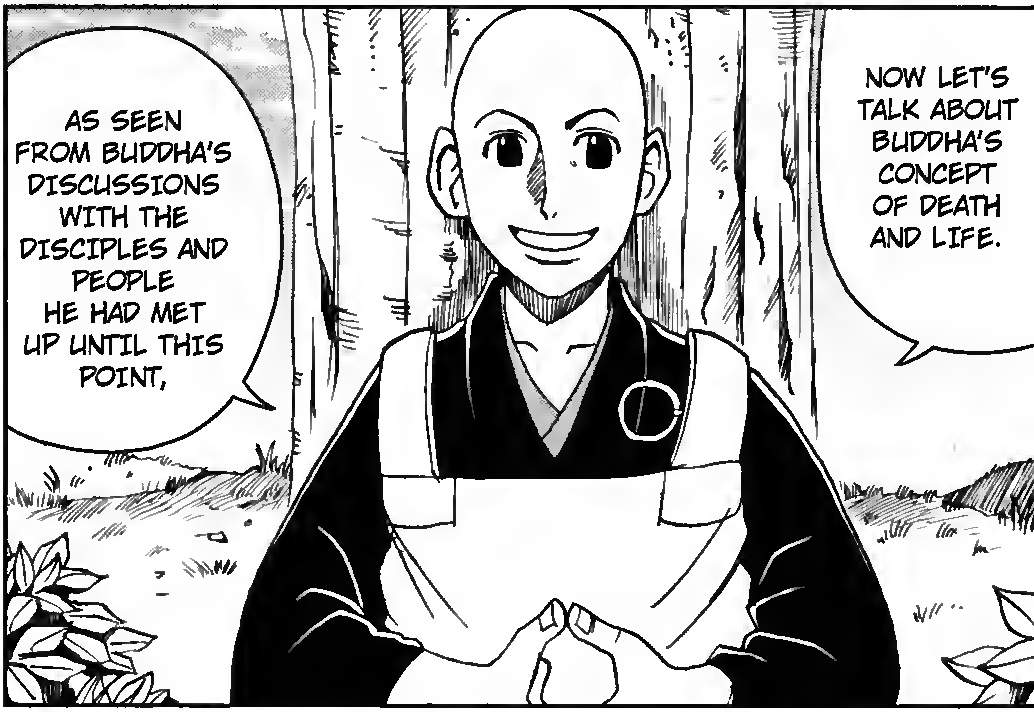

THEN, AT ANOTHER TIME...

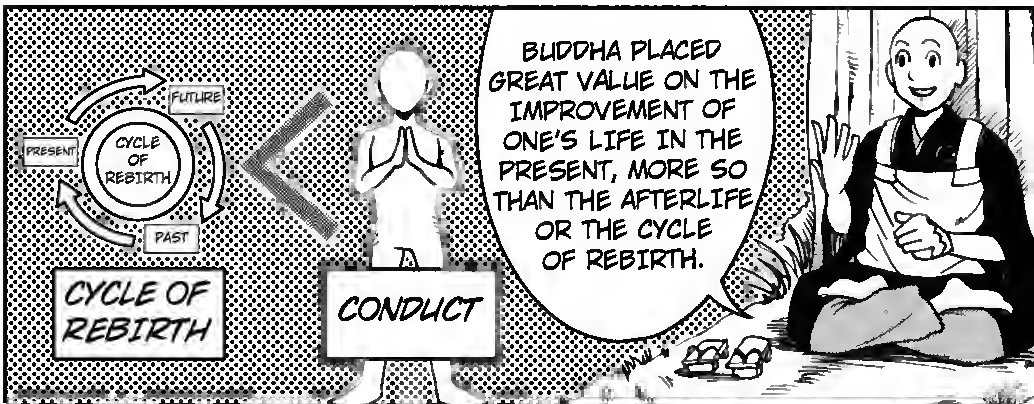
WHAT IS IT?
EXCUSE US!
KNEEL
WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE BUDDHA!
WE SENSE YOUR HOLINESS...
YOU MUST BE THE BUDDHA, RIGHT?
OPEN
UNDER-STOOD.
PLEASE TEACH US THE TRUTH ABOUT DEATH FROM OLD AGE!

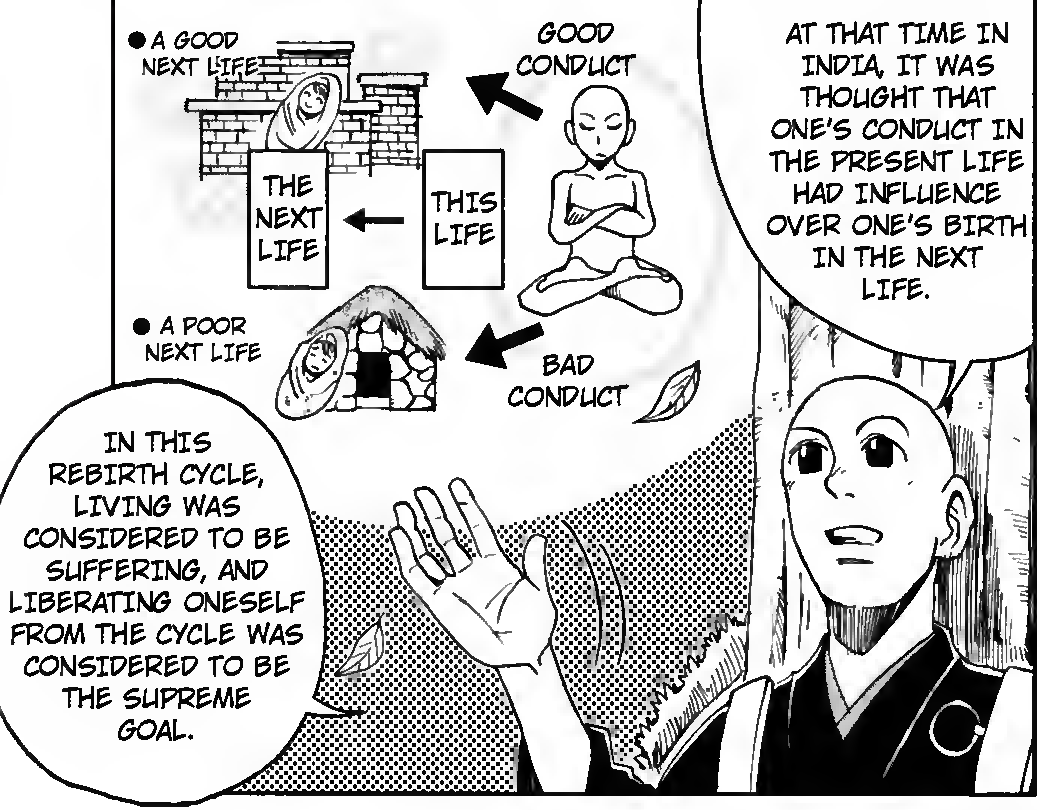

WHATEVER NAME PEOPLE MAKE FOR THEMSELVES, AFTER THEY DIE, IT IS JUST A NAME.
YOU MUST NOT BE A PART OF THAT KIND OF ATTACHMENT.
PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE SHORT.
BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE SO ATTACHED TO THEM-SELVES, THEIR LIVES ARE SAD.

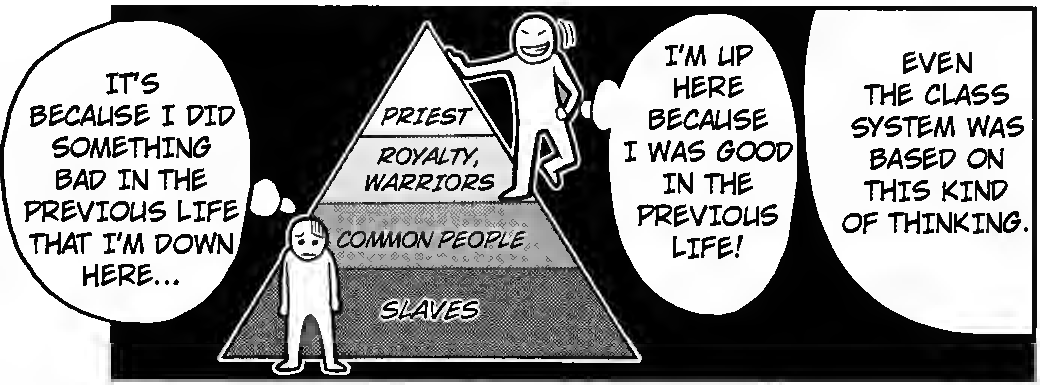

THE SAINT DOES NOT FALL BEHIND IN ANY WAY. HE IS NOT TAKEN BY ATTACHMENTS, SADNESS, OR HATRED.
MUCH LIKE HOW THE DEW INSIDE A LOTUS FLOWER IS KEPT FROM FILTHY WATERS.

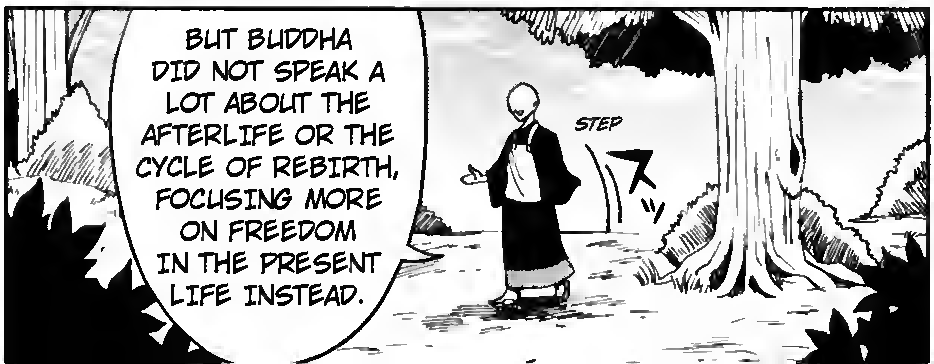
SO FORGET ABOUT BIRTH, OLD AGE, AND DEATH, SO THAT YOU CAN BECOME THIS SAINT.
CONTROL YOUR VARIOUS CRAVINGS AND LET YOUR WORLDLY DESIRES DRY UP.
IF YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL NOT BE RULED OVER BY FEAR OF LIFE, OLD AGE, AND DEATH.
お…
THROUGH THAT, THERE WILL BE PEACE AMONG PEOPLE.
AAH...
THANK YOU, BUDDHA!


AS SEEN FROM BUDDHA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DISCIPLES AND PEOPLE HE HAD MET UP UNTIL THIS POINT,
NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT BUDDHA'S CONCEPT OF DEATH AND LIFE.


FUTURE
PRESENT
CYCLE OF REBIRTH
PAST
CYCLE OF REBIRTH
CONDUCT
BUDDHA PLACED GREAT VALUE ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ONE'S LIFE IN THE PRESENT, MORE SO THAN THE AFTERLIFE OR THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH.

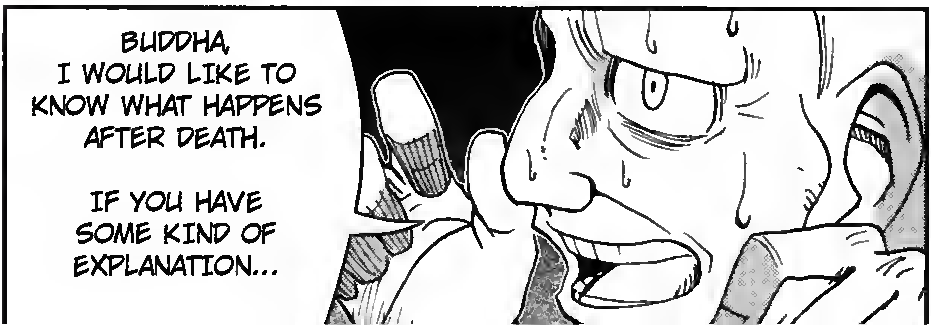

● A GOOD NEXT LIFE
GOOD CONDUCT
THE NEXT LIFE
THIS LIFE
● A POOR NEXT LIFE
BAD CONDUCT
AT THAT TIME IN INDIA, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT ONE'S CONDUCT IN THE PRESENT LIFE HAD INFLUENCE OVER ONE'S BIRTH IN THE NEXT LIFE.
IN THIS REBIRTH CYCLE, LIVING WAS CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFERING, AND LIBERATING ONESELF FROM THE CYCLE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE THE SUPREME GOAL.


PRIEST
ROYALTY, WARRIORS
COMMON PEOPLE
SLAVES
IT'S BECAUSE I DID SOMETHING BAD IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE THAT I'M DOWN HERE...
I'M UP HERE BECAUSE I WAS GOOD IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE!
EVEN THE CLASS SYSTEM WAS BASED ON THIS KIND OF THINKING.

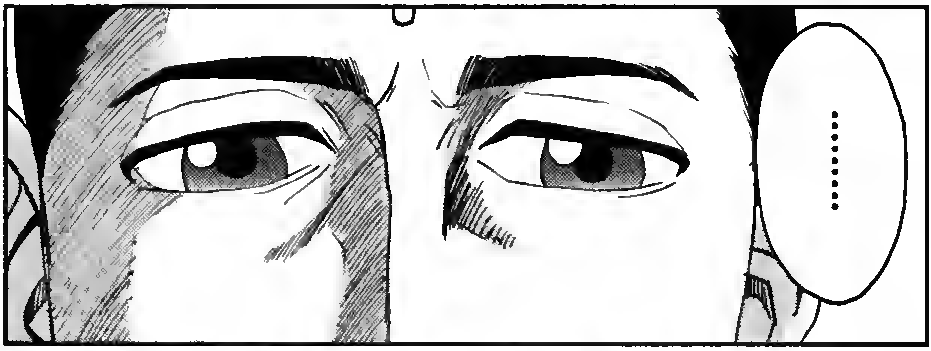

BUT BUDDHA DID NOT SPEAK A LOT ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE OR THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH, FOCUSING MORE ON FREEDOM IN THE PRESENT LIFE INSTEAD.
STEP

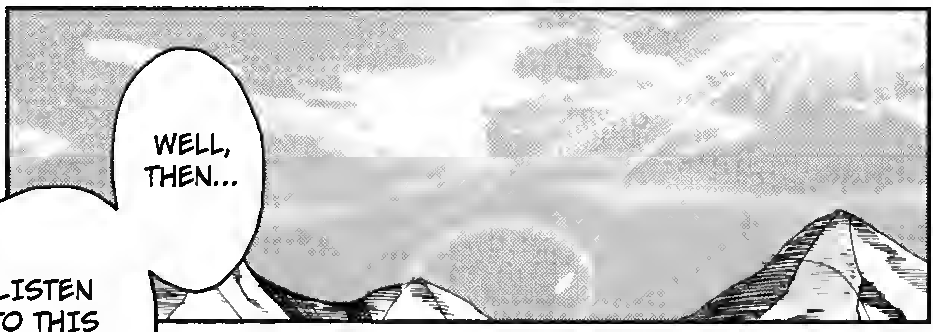
THANK YOU, BUDDHA.

PLEASE HEAR MY CONCERNS NEXT.
STAND
OH, BUDDHA...


BUDDHA, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH.
IF YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF EXPLANATION...

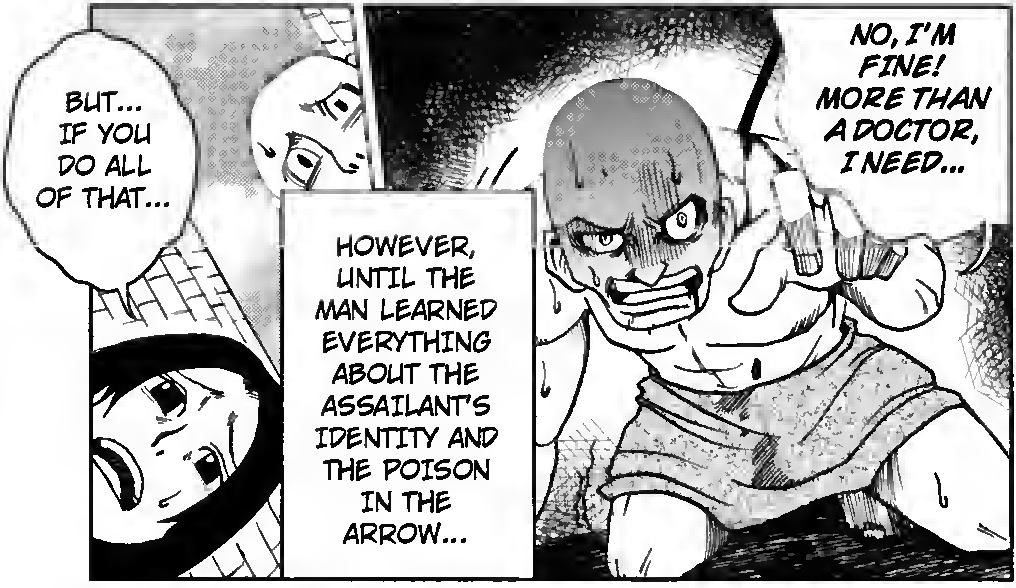
HOWEVER, BUDDHA DID NOT TRY TO ANSWER THE DISCIPLE'S QUESTION.
STILL, THE DESCIPLE PERSISTED AGAIN, AND BEGGED BUDDHA TO ANSWER.
BUDDHA, PLEASE!

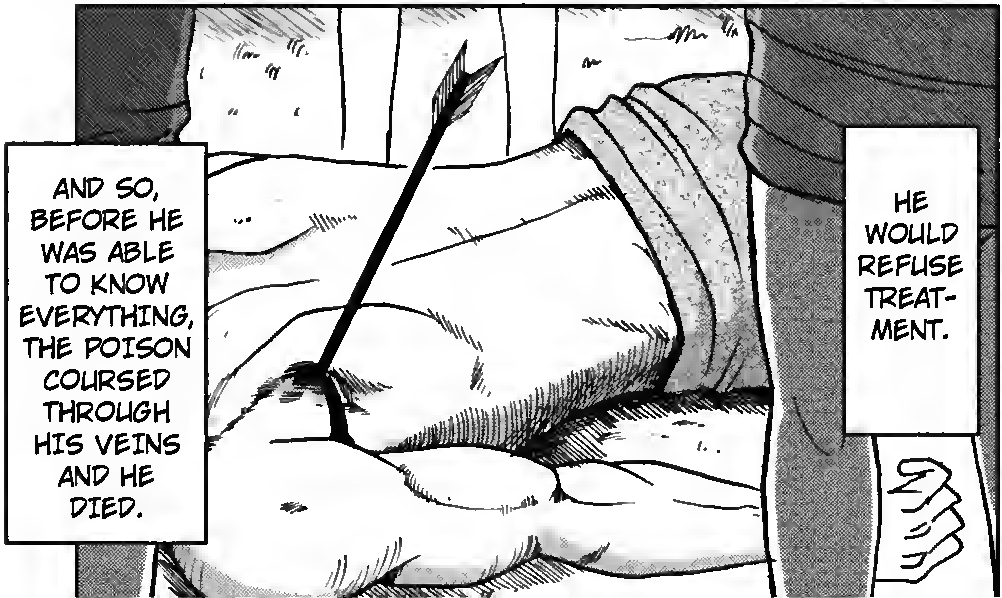

.....

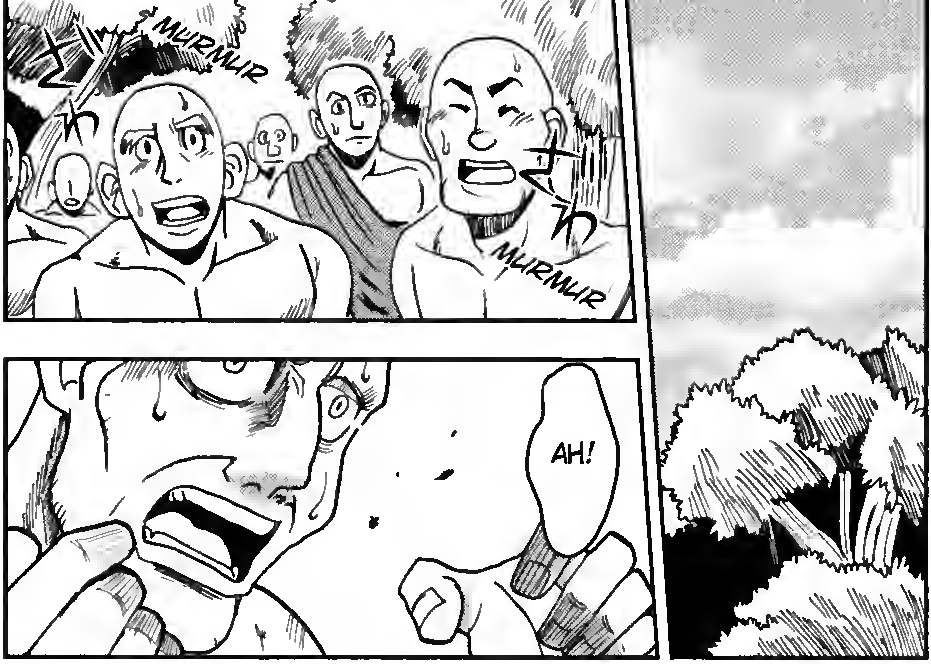

WELL, THEN...
LISTEN TO THIS STORY.

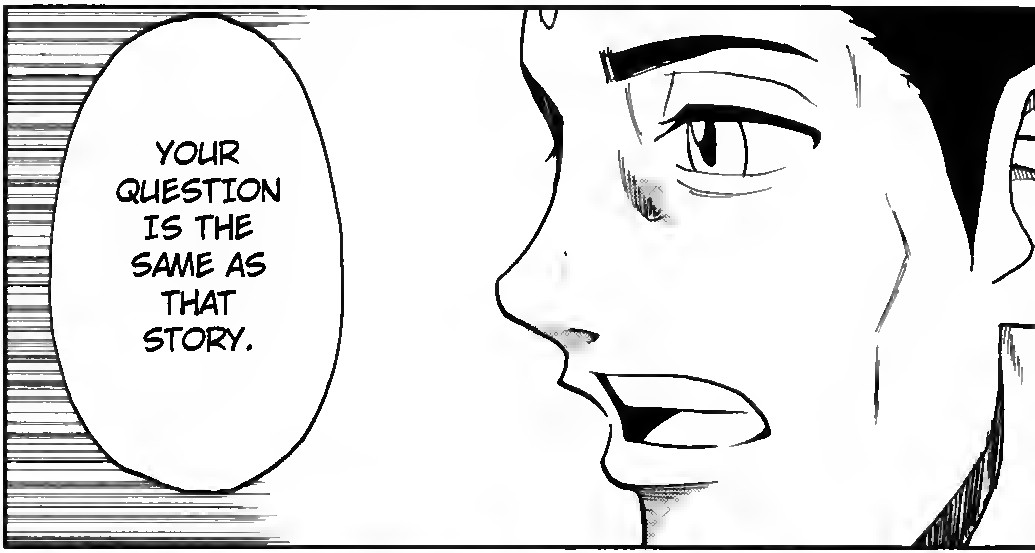
IN A CERTAIN TOWN, THERE WAS ONCE A MAN.
WHILE HE WAS OUT WALKING, HE WAS SHOT BY A POISON ARROW.
SCHWING!
GROAN
COLLAPSE
THE MAN, STRUCK BY THE ARROW, COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND.

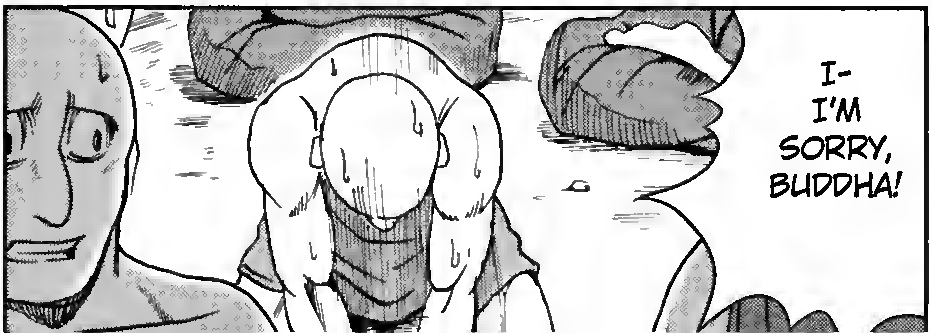
GASP!
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
I'M GONNA GO CALL A DOCTOR!

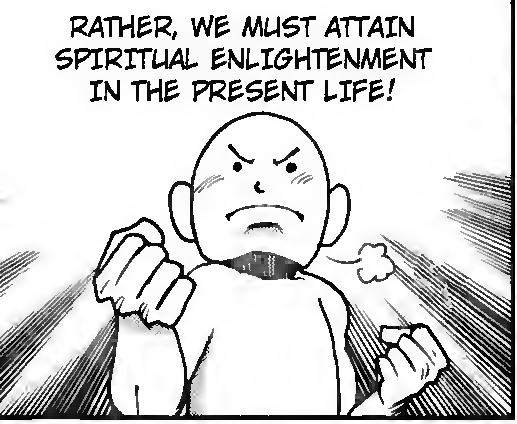

BUT... IF YOU DO ALL OF THAT...
HOWEVER, UNTIL THE MAN LEARNED EVERYTHING ABOUT THE ASSAILANT'S IDENTITY AND THE POISON IN THE ARROW...
NO, I'M FINE! MORE THAN A DOCTOR, I NEED...

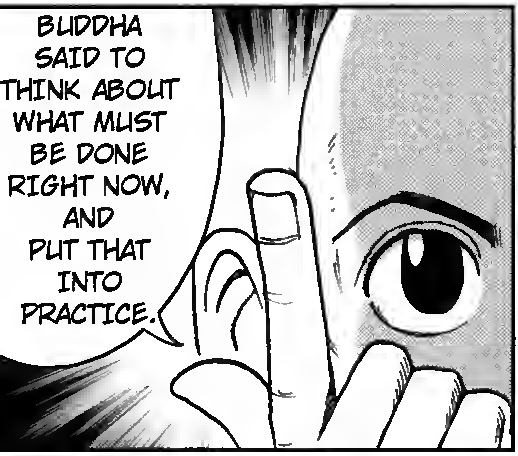

AND SO, BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO KNOW EVERYTHING, THE POISON COURSED THROUGH HIS VEINS AND HE DIED.
HE WOULD REFUSE TREAT-MENT.

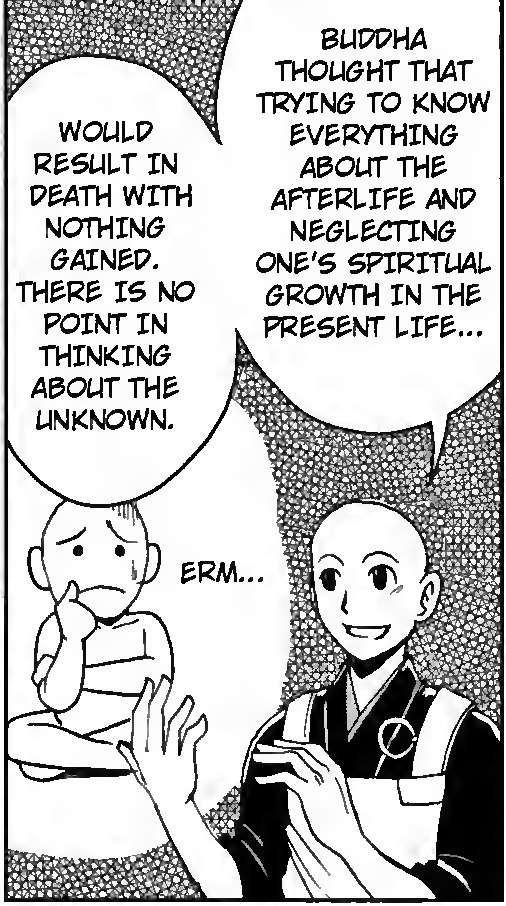

MURMUR
MURMUR
AH!

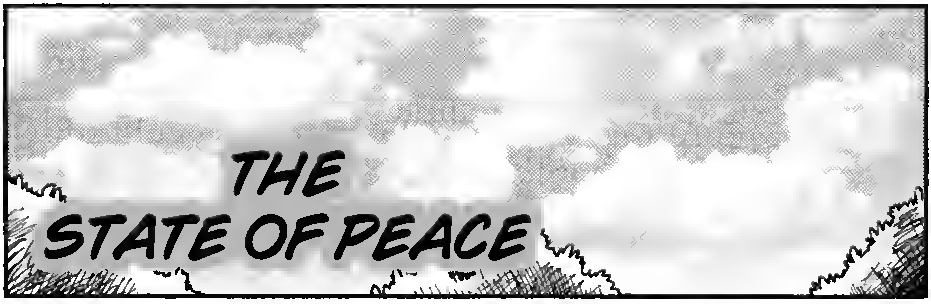

YOUR QUESTION IS THE SAME AS THAT STORY.


I- I'M SORRY, BUDDHA!


RATHER, WE MUST ATTAIN SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE PRESENT LIFE!

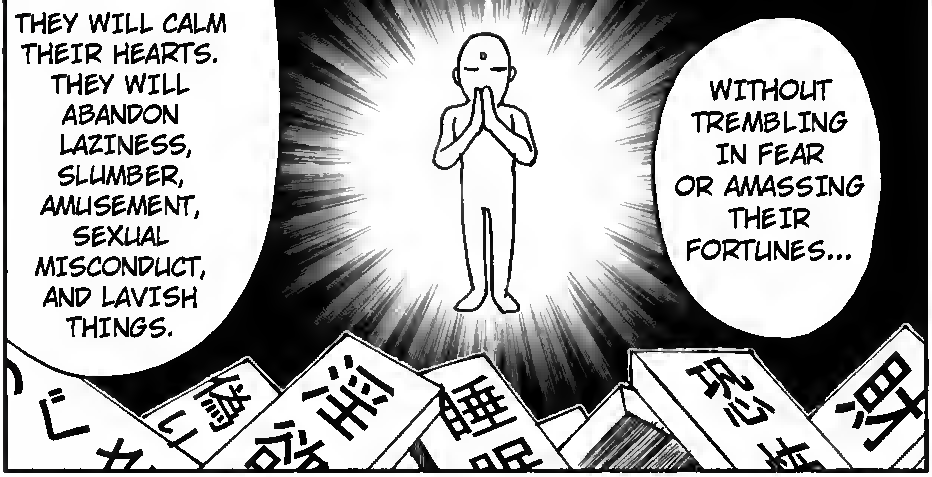

BUDDHA SAID TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MUST BE DONE RIGHT NOW, AND PUT THAT INTO PRACTICE.


BUDDHA THOUGHT THAT TRYING TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE AND NEGLECTING ONE'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN THE PRESENT LIFE...
WOULD RESULT IN DEATH WITH NOTHING GAINED. THERE IS NO POINT IN THINKING ABOUT THE UNKNOWN.
ERM...

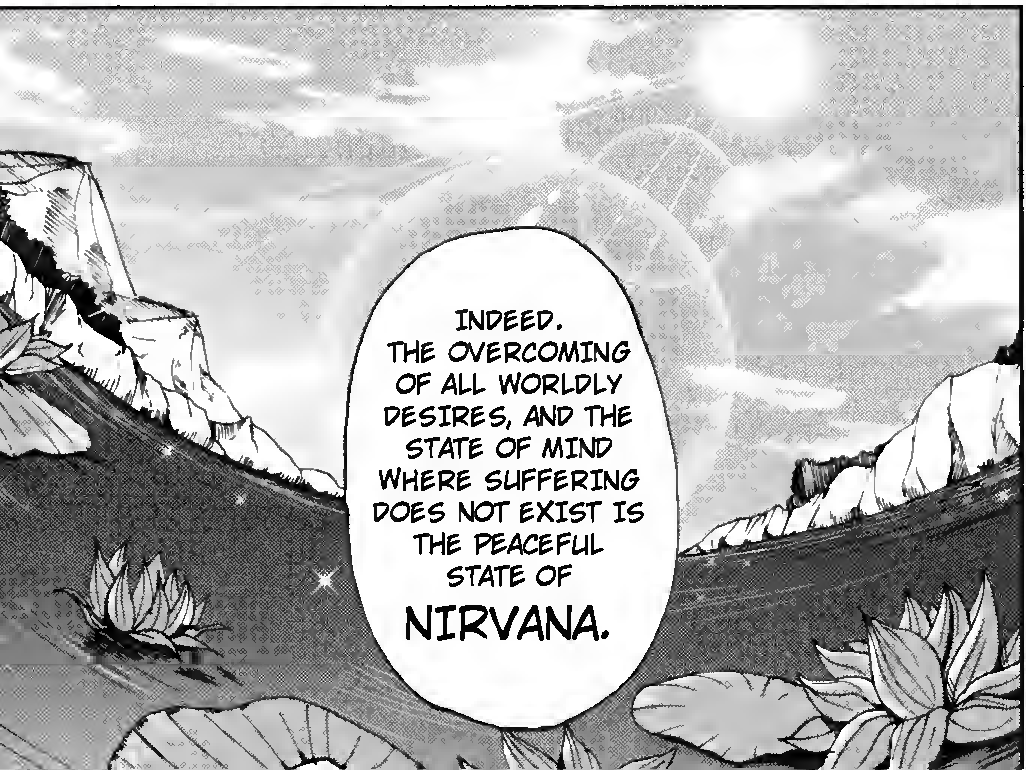

THE STATE OF PEACE

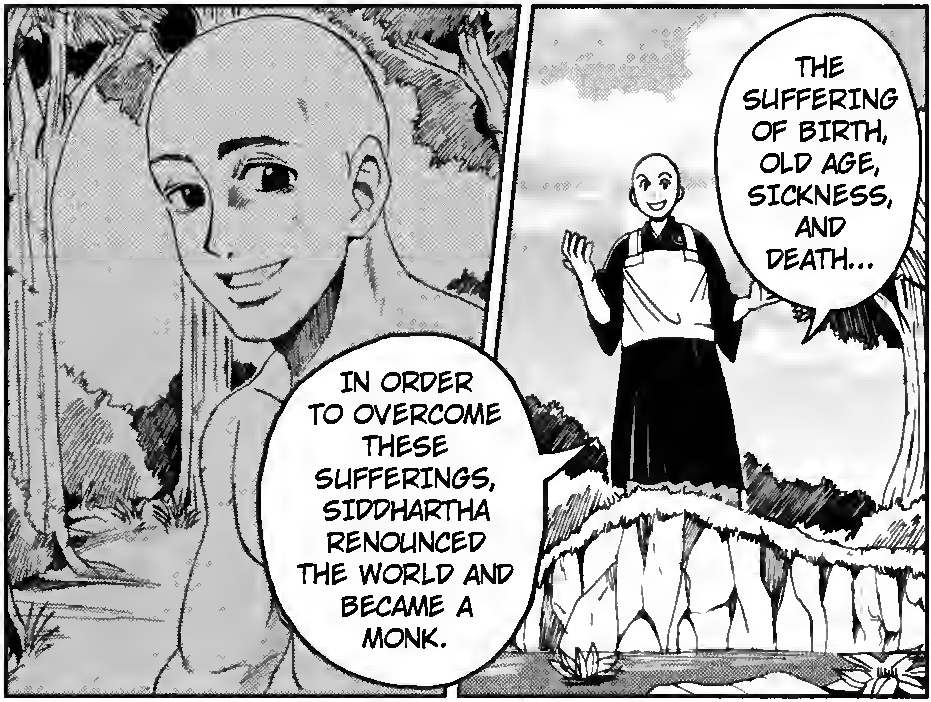
MY DISCIPLES,
PUT TO GOOD USE THE PRECIOUS DAYS YOU HAVE NOW!

BY DEVOTING YOUR DAYS TO YOUR FAITH...
A STATE OF GREAT PEACE AWAITS YOU.
THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED INTO THE STATE OF PEACE WILL NOT BE ATTACHED TO LIFE NOR BE DISHEARTENED BY SUFFERING.

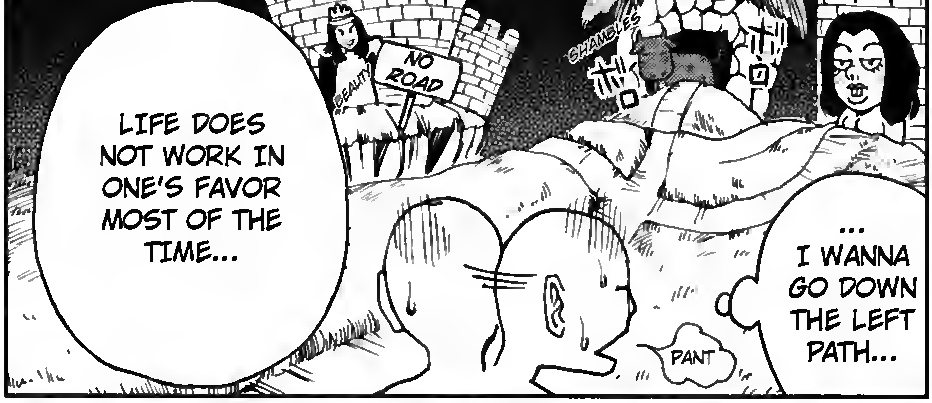

THEY WILL CALM THEIR HEARTS. THEY WILL ABANDON LAZINESS, SLUMBER, AMUSEMENT, SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, AND LAVISH THINGS.
WITHOUT TREMBLING IN FEAR OR AMASSING THEIR FORTUNES...

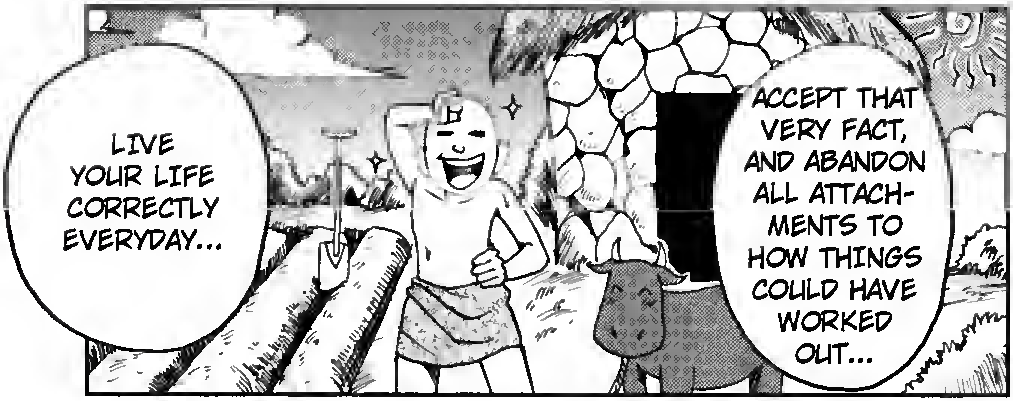
BUDDHA, YOU ARE SPEAKING OF "NIRVANA", CORRECT?

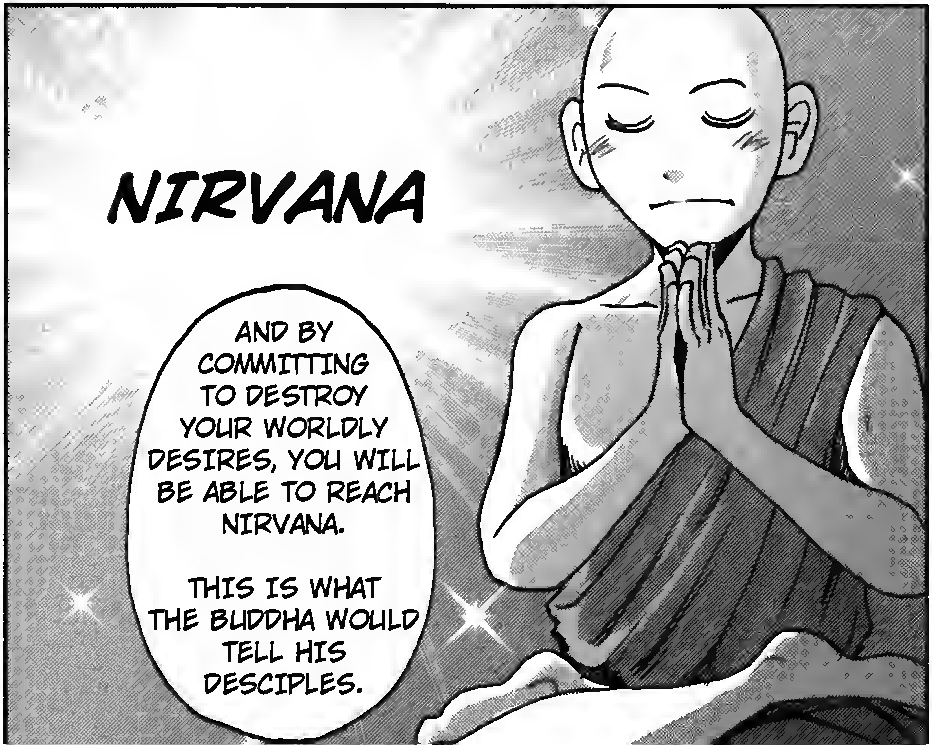

INDEED. THE OVERCOMING OF ALL WORLDLY DESIRES, AND THE STATE OF MIND WHERE SUFFERING DOES NOT EXIST IS THE PEACEFUL STATE OF NIRVANA.


THE SUFFERING OF BIRTH, OLD AGE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH...
IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THESE SUFFERINGS, SIDDHARTHA RENOUNCED THE WORLD AND BECAME A MONK.

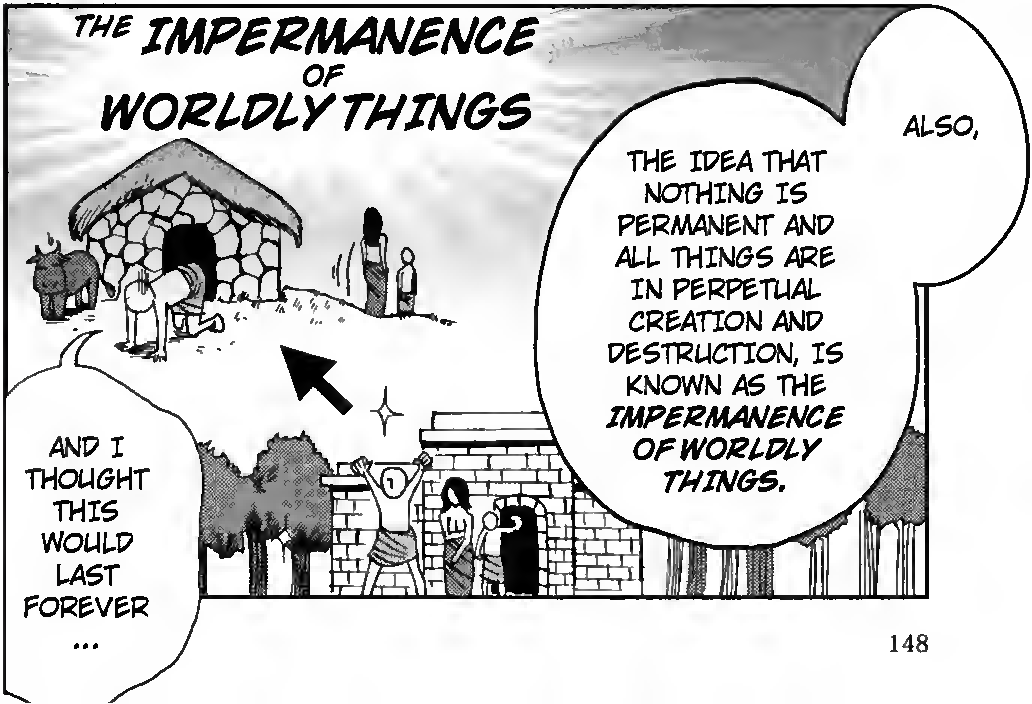
生
THE SUFFERING OF BIRTH
老
THE SUFFERING OF OLD AGE
病
THE SUFFERING OF SICKNESS
死
THE SUFFERING OF DEATH
IN OVERCOMING THESE SUFFERINGS, HE BECAME THE BUDDHA AND REACHED NIRVANA.


LIFE DOES NOT WORK IN ONE'S FAVOR MOST OF THE TIME...
NO ROAD
CHAMBERS
PANT
... I WANNA GO DOWN THE LEFT PATH...


LIVE YOUR LIFE CORRECTLY EVERYDAY...
ACCEPT THAT VERY FACT, AND ABANDON ALL ATTACH-MENTS TO HOW THINGS COULD HAVE WORKED OUT...


NIRVANA
AND BY COMMITTING TO DESTROY YOUR WORLDLY DESIRES, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REACH NIRVANA.
THIS IS WHAT THE BUDDHA WOULD TELL HIS DESCIPLES.

THE PEACE AND CALM OF NIRVANA
THIS STATE OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND PEACE, WHERE WORLDLY DESIRES ARE SNUFFED OUT AND SUFFERING DOES NOT EXIST...
IS CALLED THE PEACE AND CALM OF NIRVANA.

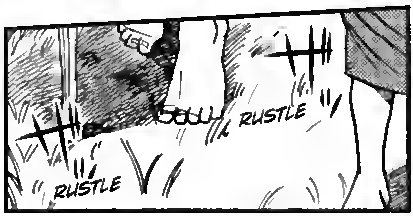

THE IMPERMANENCE OF WORLDLY THINGS
ALSO,
THE IDEA THAT NOTHING IS PERMANENT AND ALL THINGS ARE IN PERPETUAL CREATION AND DESTRUCTION, IS KNOWN AS THE IMPERMANENCE OF WORLDLY THINGS.
AND I THOUGHT THIS WOULD LAST FOREVER ...

EVERYTHING IS DEVOID OF SELF
THE IDEA THAT ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED, OCCURRING THROUGH CAUSE AND EFFECT, AND THAT THERE IS CONSEQUENTLY NO "SELF", IS SUMMED UP IN THE PHRASE "EVERYTHING IS DEVOID OF SELF".
LET'S LIVE WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT UP IN OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH OUR "SELF"!
CONDI-TION
CAUSE
CONDI-TION
CAUSE
CONDI-TION
CAUSE
CAUSE
ALL THINGS ARE DEVOID OF SELF.
ALL WORLDLY THINGS ARE IMPER-MANENT.
PEACE IS FOUND IN NIRVANA.
THE THREE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS
THESE ARE KNOWN AS THE THREE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS, AND ARE CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHINGS OF BUDDHISM.

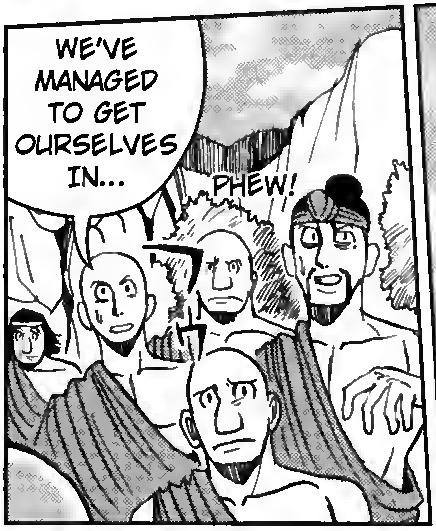
APPARENTLY HE IS IN THE MOUNTAINS NEARBY WITH HIS DISCIPLES.

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS?
YES.

HEY! OVER THERE!
IS BUDDHA REALLY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

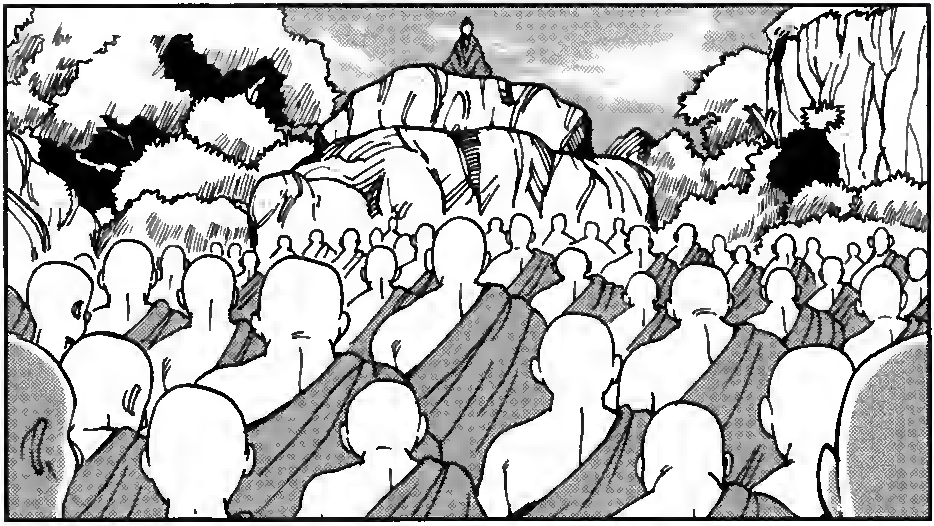

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

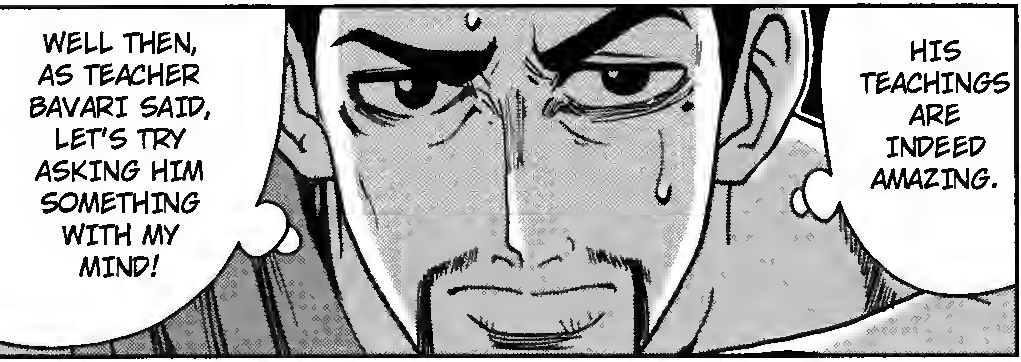
PHEW!

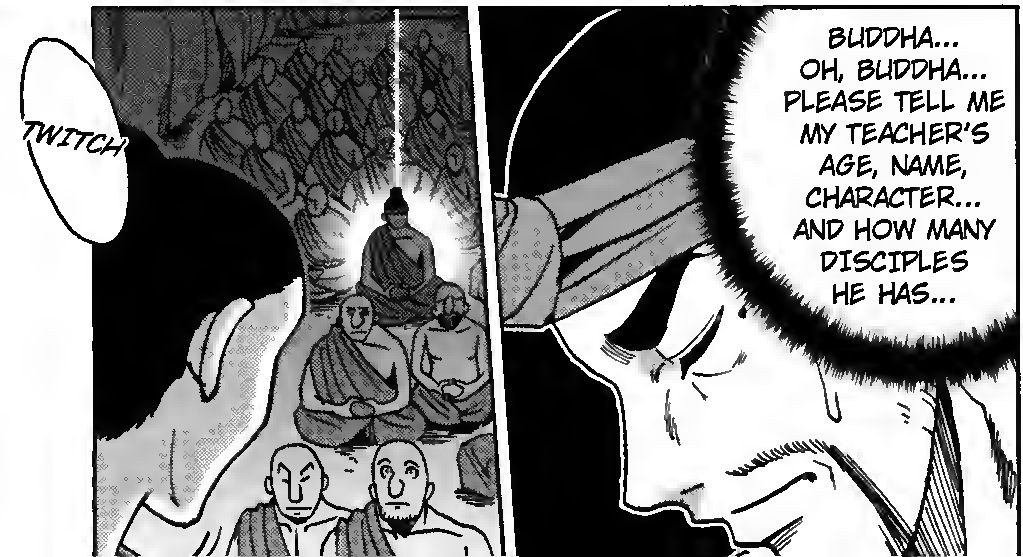

WE'VE MANAGED TO GET OURSELVES IN...
PHEW!

SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN... LET'S GET OURSELVES IN THERE, TOO!
RIGHT!

HEY! IS THAT THE BUDDHA THAT OUR TEACHER BAVARI SPOKE OF?
IT LOOKS LIKE HIS TEACHING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
HE LOOKS LIKE A GREAT MAN!

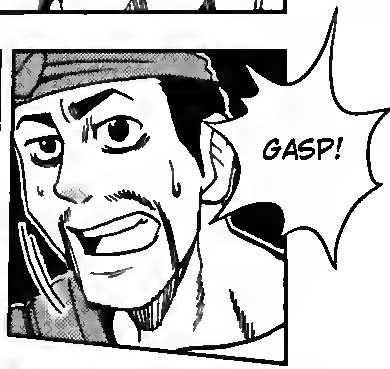



WELL THEN, AS TEACHER BAVARI SAID, LET'S TRY ASKING HIM SOMETHING WITH MY MIND!
HIS TEACHINGS ARE INDEED AMAZING.


TWITCH
BUDDHA... OH, BUDDHA... PLEASE TELL ME MY TEACHER'S AGE, NAME, CHARACTER... AND HOW MANY DISCIPLES HE HAS...

YOUR TEACHER'S NAME IS BAVARI, HE IS 120 YEARS OLD, HE KNOWS THE SECRETS OF THE VEDAS, AND HE HAS 600 DISCIPLES.
STAND

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE TRIED TO TEST BUDDHA BY ASKING HIM SOMETHING WITH HIS MIND.
HMM...


GASP!

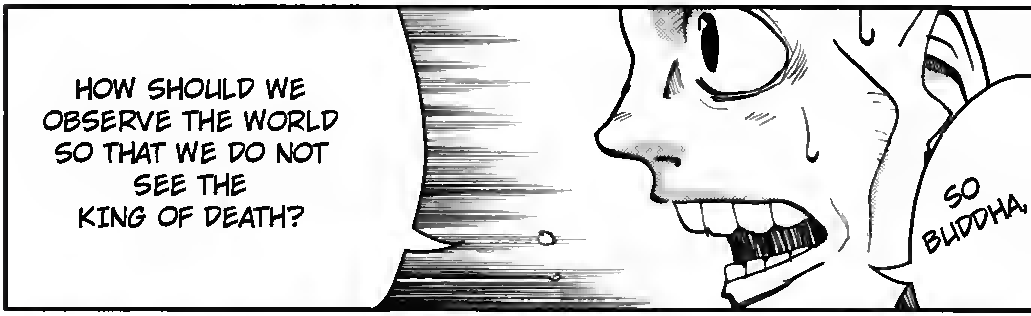
MURMUR
MURMUR

BAVARI WAS CURSED BY A BRAHMIN PRIEST SAYING THAT HIS HEAD WOULD SPLIT OPEN...
SO IN SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION, HE HAS SENT HIS DISCIPLES BEFORE ME.
HE EVEN KNOWS OUR MISSION!
DO NOT WORRY. THAT BRAHMIN PRIEST DOES NOT HAVE SUCH POWERS.
FOR A HEAD TO BE SPLIT OPEN, GREAT KNOWLEDGE MUST BE JOINED BY FAITH, SENSES, MENTAL CONCENTRATION, AND EFFORT.
BAVARI'S DISCIPLES... AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE, TAKE HEART!
IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, ASK ME.

THEN, TELL US...
WHAT ARE PEOPLE SHROUDED BY, AND WHAT DIMS THEIR LIGHT?
ALSO, WHAT IS POLLUTING THE PEOPLE, AND WHAT IS THE GREAT FEAR THAT THEY HAVE?
PEOPLE ARE SHROUDED BY IGNORANCE ...

AND GREED AND IDLENESS DIM THEIR LIGHT.
SELFISHNESS IS POLLUTING THE PEOPLE... AND SUFFERING IS THEIR GREAT FEAR.
WELL, THEN...
WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR SOMEONE OLD AND LOST LIKE ME...
SO THAT I DON'T JUST DIE ALONG THE WAY?
YOU MUST...

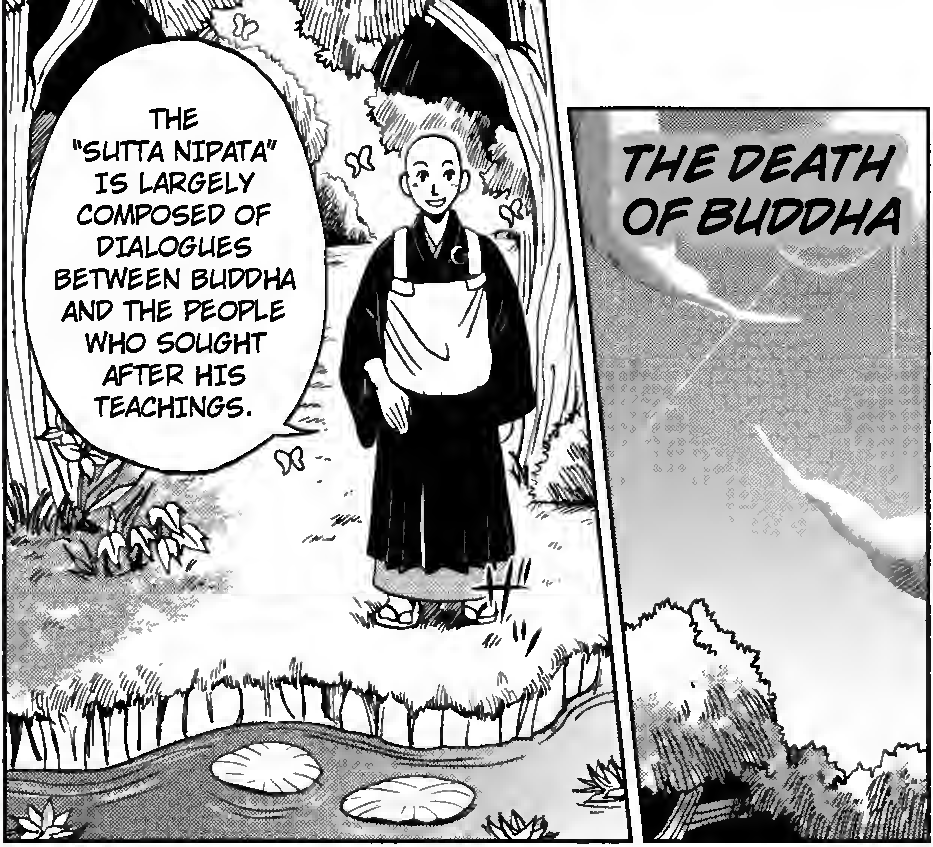
WOW!
WHAT A MAN...
ABANDON THE PHYSICAL BODY, THE VERY THING THAT CAUSES YOU TO WORRY...
AND TRAIN YOURSELF IN RIGHT DISCIPLINE, SO THAT YOU ARE NOT REBORN AGAIN...

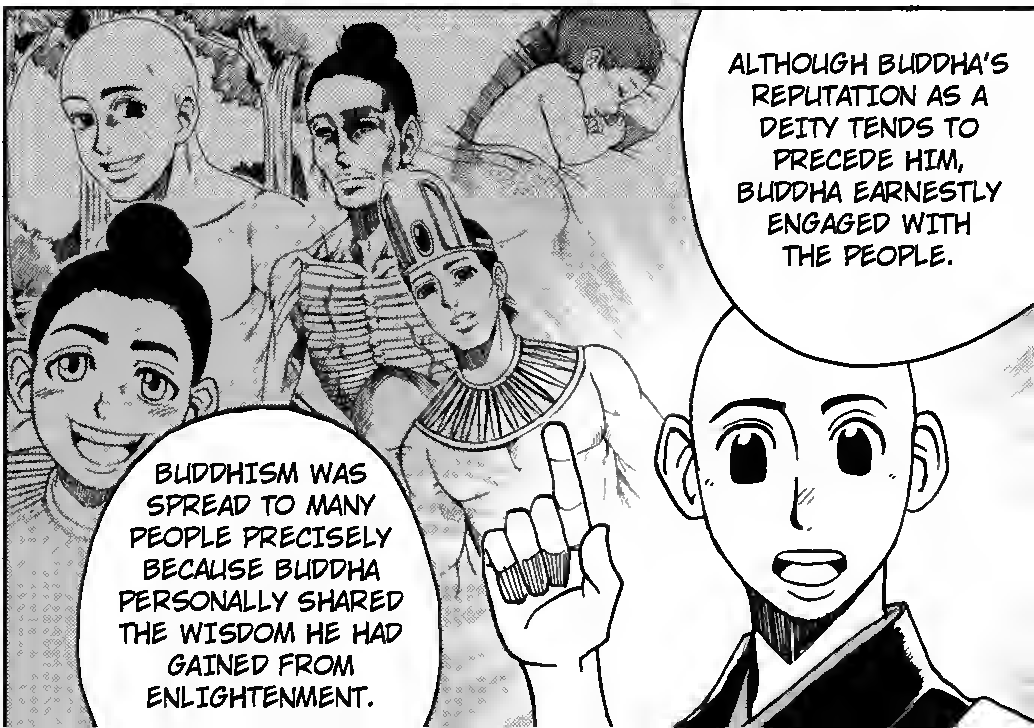

HOW SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE WORLD SO THAT WE DO NOT SEE THE KING OF DEATH?
SO BUDDHA,

PLEASE ANSWER MY QUESTION NEXT.
BUDDHA,

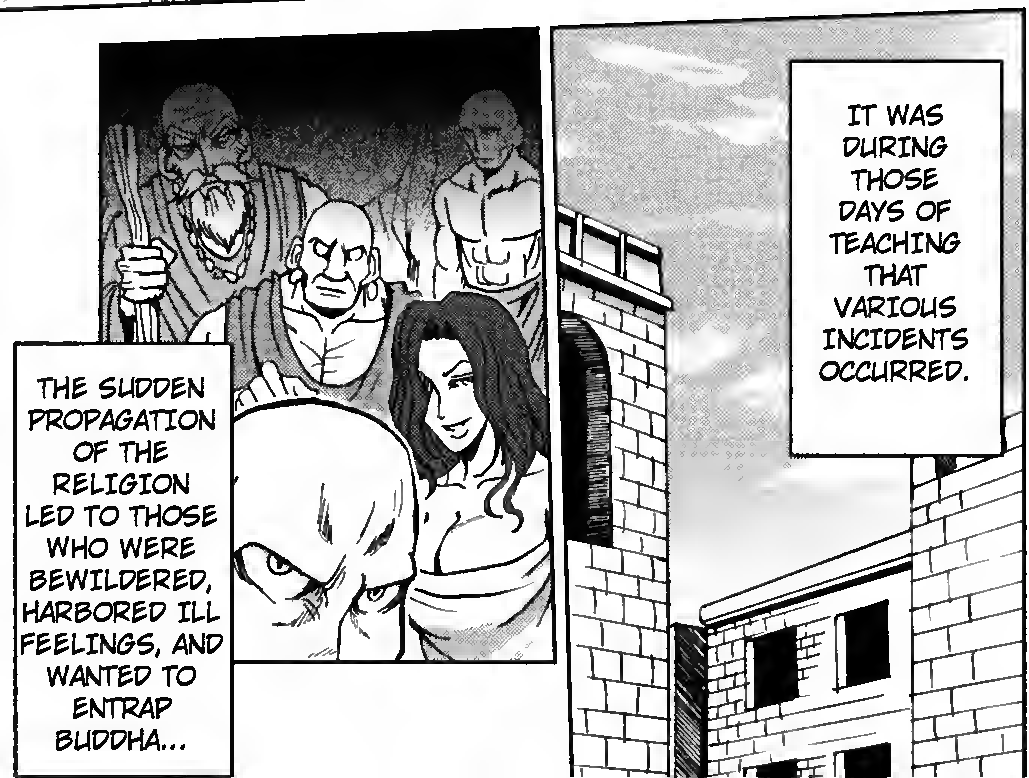
IN DOING SO, YOU WILL OVERCOME DEATH AND YOU WILL NOT SEE THE KING OF DEATH.
ALWAYS BE CAREFUL, DO NOT BE ATTACHED TO YOUR "SELF", AND HAVE A CLEAR-MINDED VIEW.

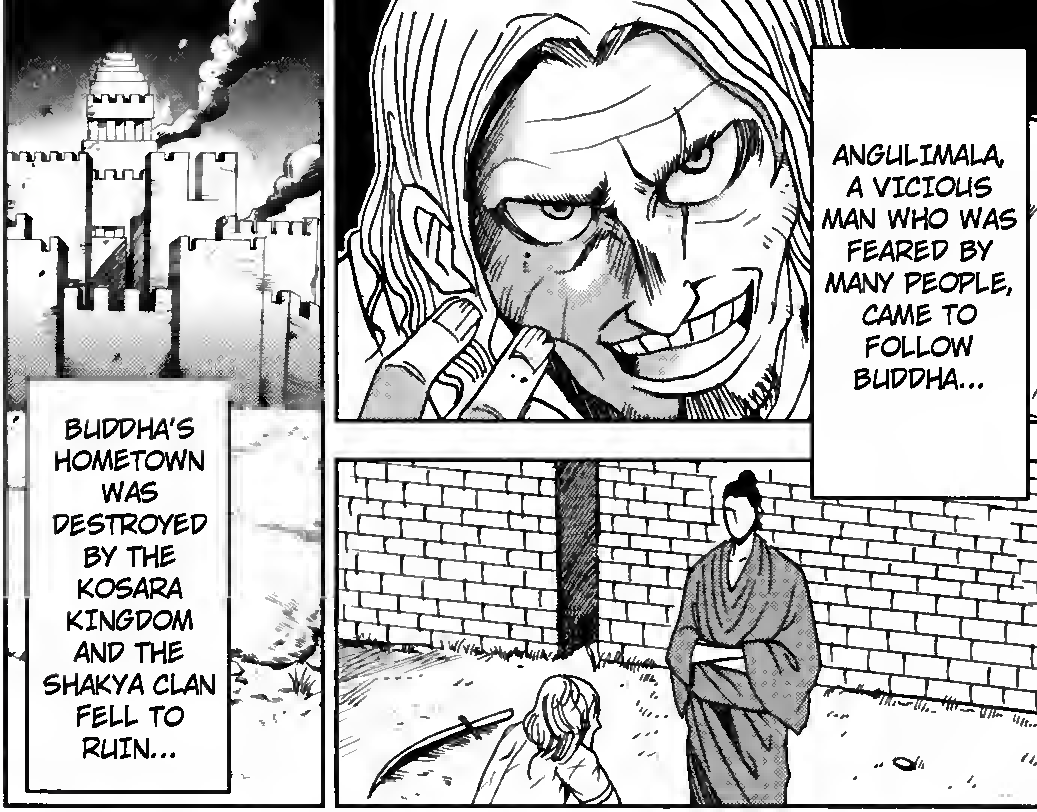
MONKS, I TELL YOU! BE CAREFUL AND ALERT, KNOW THE LAWS BASED ON PROPER LIVING AND DISCIPLINE.
OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE TRUTH, DESTROY YOUR WORLDLY DESIRES, AND ATTAIN THE STATE OF PEACE.
YOU WILL BE FREE FROM ALL OF YOUR SUFFERINGS!

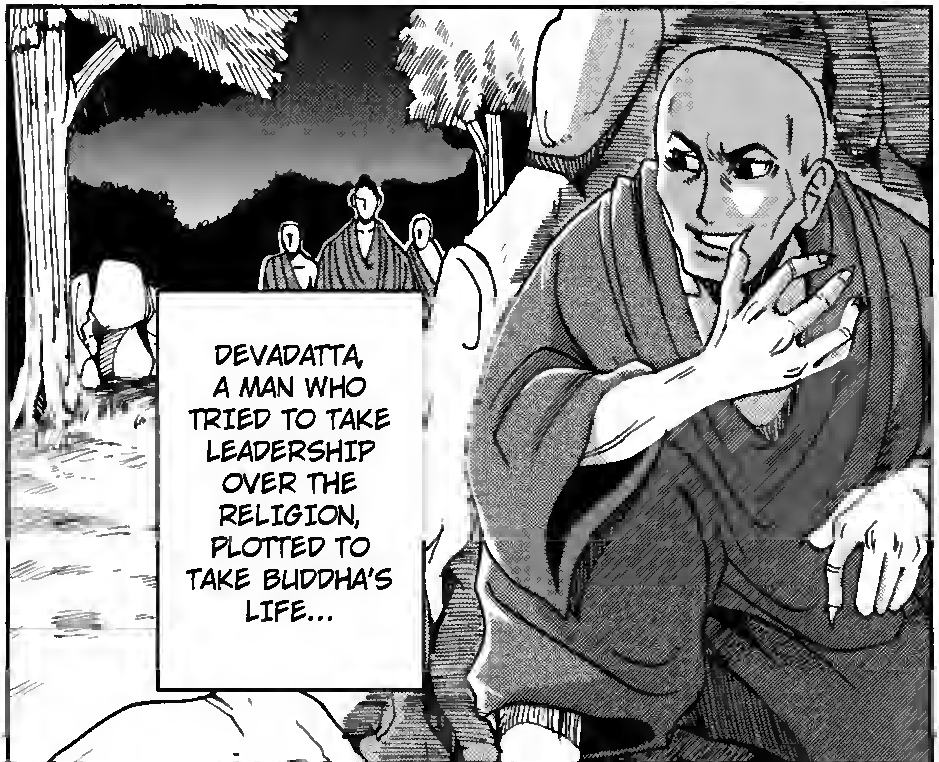

THE "SUTTA NIPATA" IS LARGELY COMPOSED OF DIALOGUES BETWEEN BUDDHA AND THE PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT AFTER HIS TEACHINGS.
THE DEATH OF BUDDHA

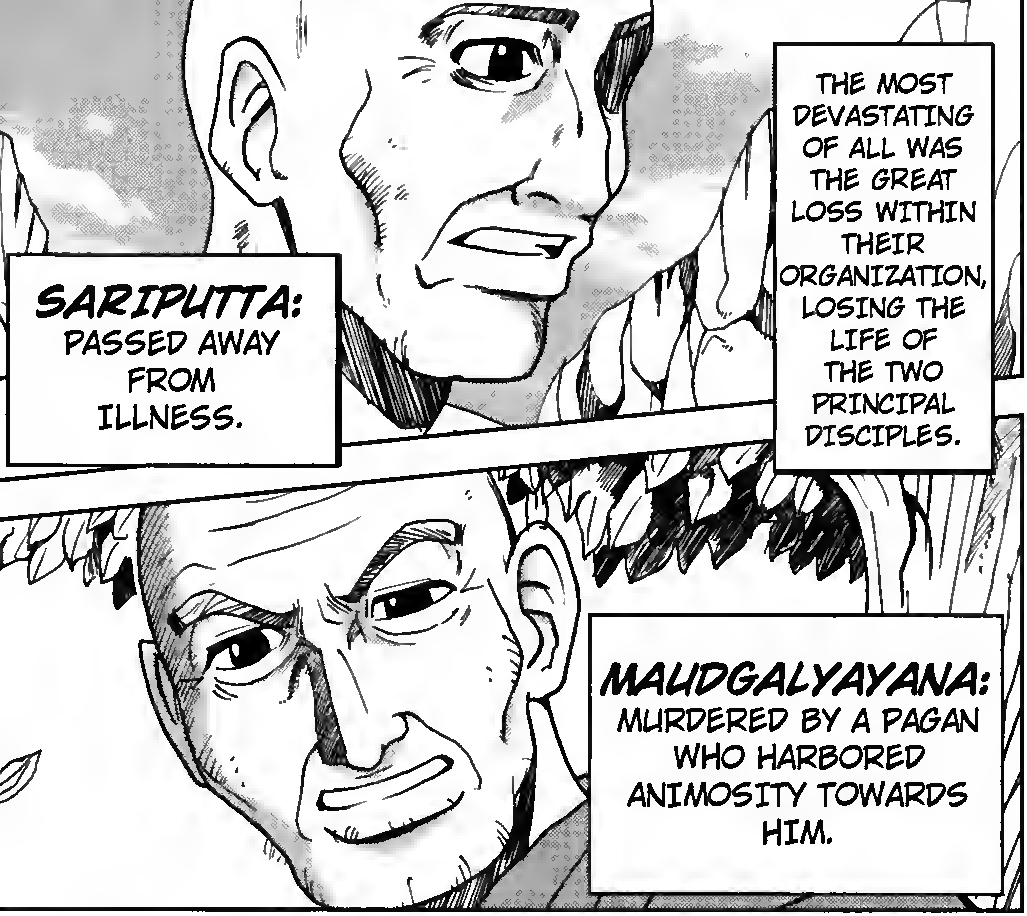

ALTHOUGH BUDDHA'S REPUTATION AS A DEITY TENDS TO PRECEDE HIM, BUDDHA EARNESTLY ENGAGED WITH THE PEOPLE.
BUDDHISM WAS SPREAD TO MANY PEOPLE PRECISELY BECAUSE BUDDHA PERSONALLY SHARED THE WISDOM HE HAD GAINED FROM ENLIGHTENMENT.

HE LED MANY PEOPLE TO ENLIGHTENMENT.

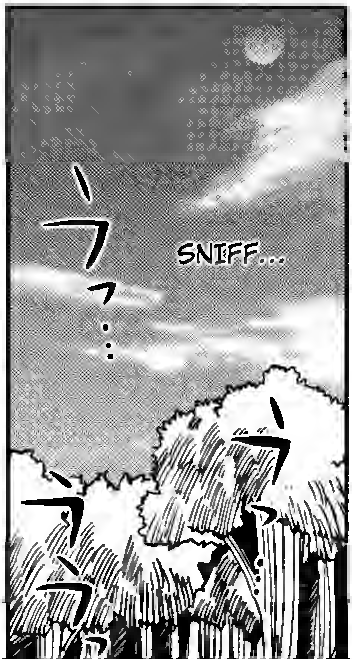

IT WAS DURING THOSE DAYS OF TEACHING THAT VARIOUS INCIDENTS OCCURRED.
THE SUDDEN PROPAGATION OF THE RELIGION LED TO THOSE WHO WERE BEWILDERED, HARBORED ILL FEELINGS, AND WANTED TO ENTRAP BUDDHA...


BUDDHA'S HOMETOWN WAS DESTROYED BY THE KOSARA KINGDOM AND THE SHAKYA CLAN FELL TO RUIN...
ANGULIMALA, A VICIOUS MAN WHO WAS FEARED BY MANY PEOPLE, CAME TO FOLLOW BUDDHA...


DEVADATTA, A MAN WHO TRIED TO TAKE LEADERSHIP OVER THE RELIGION, PLOTTED TO TAKE BUDDHA'S LIFE...


THE MOST DEVASTATING OF ALL WAS THE GREAT LOSS WITHIN THEIR ORGANIZATION, LOSING THE LIFE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL DISCIPLES.
SARIPUTTA: PASSED AWAY FROM ILLNESS.
MAUDGALYAYANA: MURDERED BY A PAGAN WHO HARBORED ANIMOSITY TOWARDS HIM.

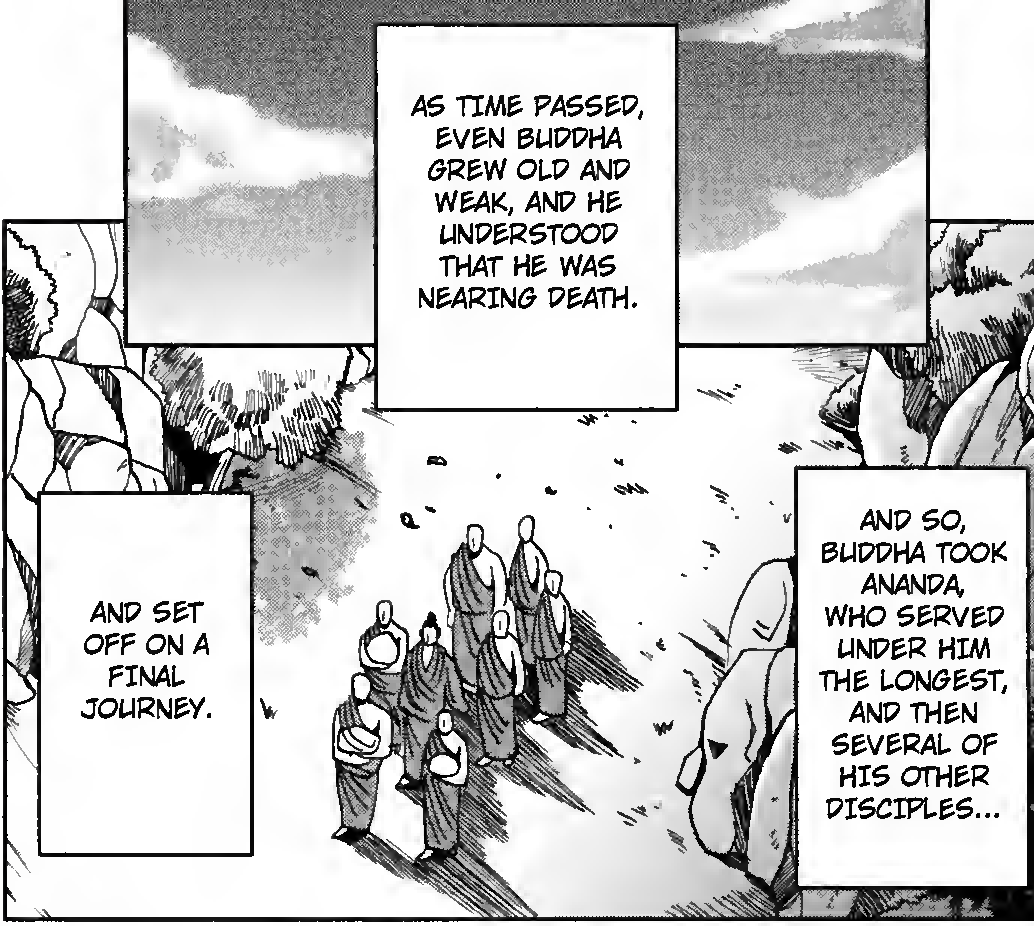
SNIFF...
SNIFF...


SNIFF...

OH, GREAT ANANDA... HOW ON EARTH ARE WE TO CONTINUE ONWARD?

ANANDA ...
I MYSELF DO NOT KNOW...
AT THAT TIME, ANANDA HAD NOT YET ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT, AND WAS LIVING IN SADNESS.
?
BUDDHA...

IT IS INDEED A GREAT LOSS THAT THOSE TWO ARE NOT WITH US ANYMORE.
HOWEVER, YOU MUST NOT LAMENT.
ONCE A GREAT TREE GROWS TALL AND THICK, THE LARGE BRANCHES WILL BREAK OFF.
IN THE SAME WAY, THOSE TWO HAVE DEPARTED FROM THIS WORLD...
ALL THINGS ARE IMPERMANENT. ALL LIVING THINGS WILL ONE DAY DIE. WHAT LIVES SHALL ALSO PERISH.

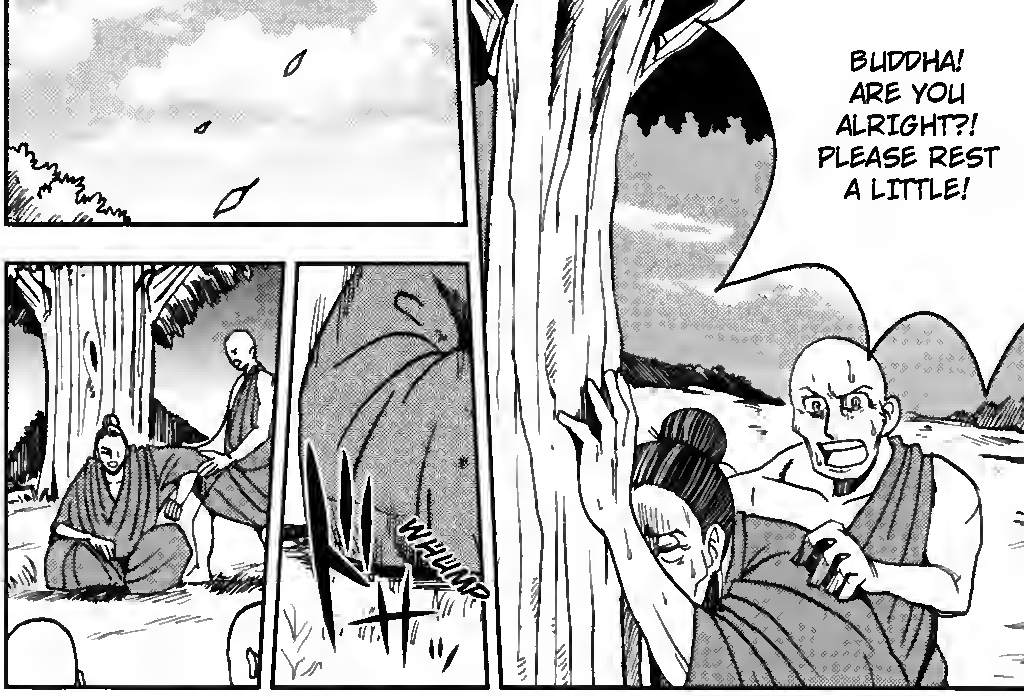

AS TIME PASSED, EVEN BUDDHA GREW OLD AND WEAK, AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS NEARING DEATH.
AND SET OFF ON A FINAL JOURNEY.
AND SO, BUDDHA TOOK ANANDA, WHO SERVED UNDER HIM THE LONGEST, AND THEN SEVERAL OF HIS OTHER DISCIPLES...

BUDDHA AND THE DISCIPLES ARRIVED AT VAISHALI, AND SPENT THEIR TIME THERE TAKING SHELTER FROM THE RAIN.

URGH!
AT THAT TIME, BUDDHA WAS BESET BY AN INTENSE PAIN IN HIS STOMACH AND HAD TO BEAR THE PAIN THROUGH MEDITATION.
GASP! BUDDHA! ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?!
BUDDHA, I HAVE RETURNED ...
STEP
RUSTLE
.....
THAT'S NOT TRUE, ANANDA.
BUDDHA, IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, WE... WE WOULD BE LOST!

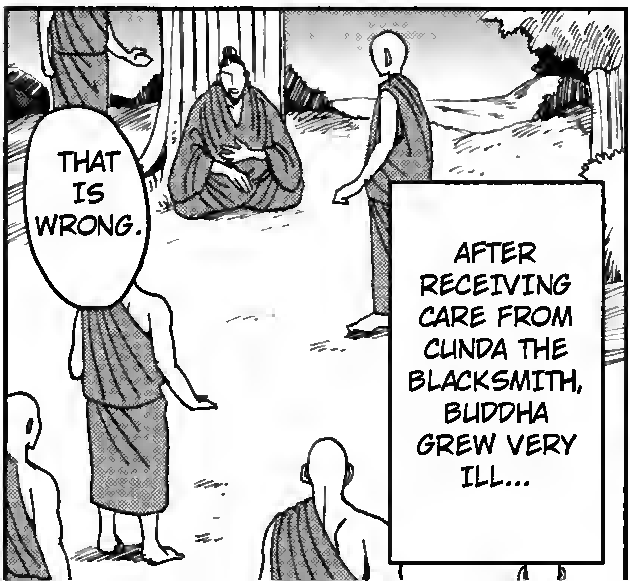
URGH!
GROAN ...
I AM NOT THE ONE WHO IS LEADING THIS GROUP...
THE TRUTH AND LAWS STILL LIVE ON...
EVEN IF I AM NOT HERE...
BUDDHA !
MAKE OF YOURSELF A LIGHT... RELY UPON YOURSELF. MAKE MY TEACHINGS A LIGHT... RELY UPON THEM.
DO NOT RELY UPON ANYTHING ELSE.
LET EVERYONE ELSE KNOW THIS.

I WILL, BUDDHA... I WILL.
DOWNPOUR
THIS, THE TEACHING OF LIGHT, WAS BUDDHA'S LAST TEACHING TO HIS DISCIPLES.
AND THEN, BUDDHA WOULD MAKE A PROMISE WITH THE DEVIL TO DIE THREE MONTHS LATER.
GROAN ...
URGH ...
BUDDHA CONTINUED TO TRAVEL AFTER THAT INCIDENT ...

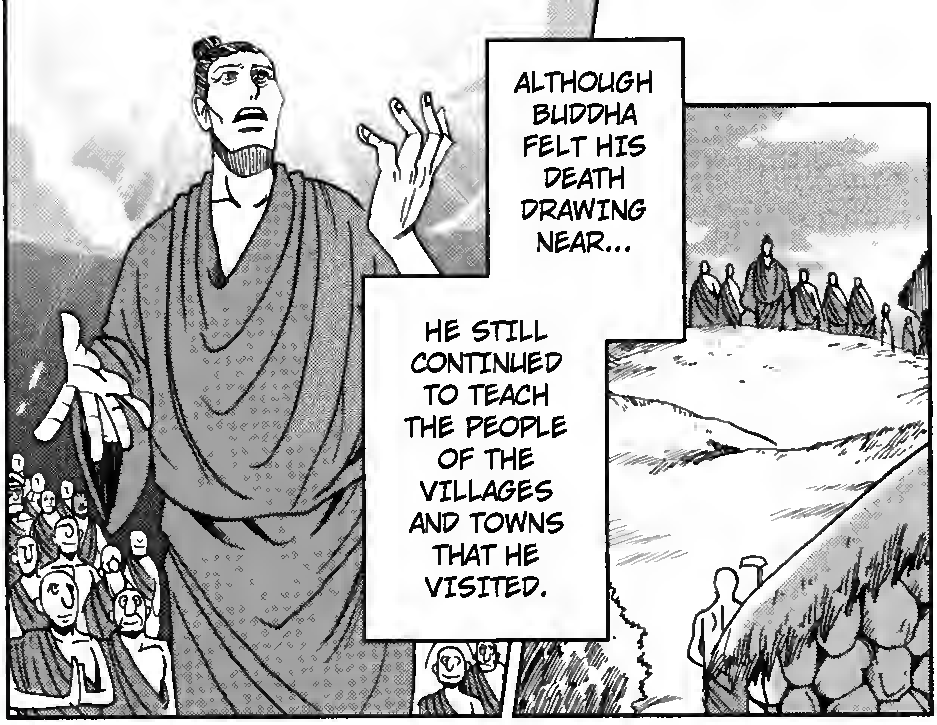

BUDDHA! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?! PLEASE REST A LITTLE!
WHUMP

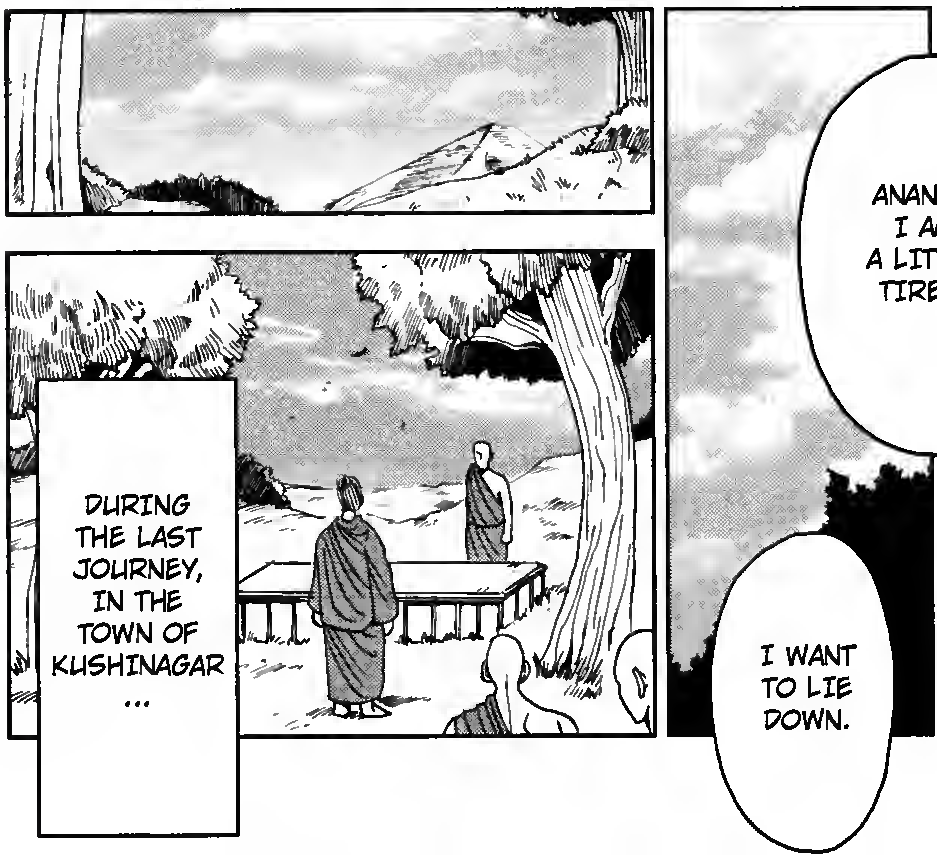
HOW CAN THIS BE!
I KNEW IT!

OH NO... I WAS AFRAID THIS MORNING'S BREAKFAST WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU...


THAT IS WRONG.
AFTER RECEIVING CARE FROM CUNDA THE BLACKSMITH, BUDDHA GREW VERY ILL...

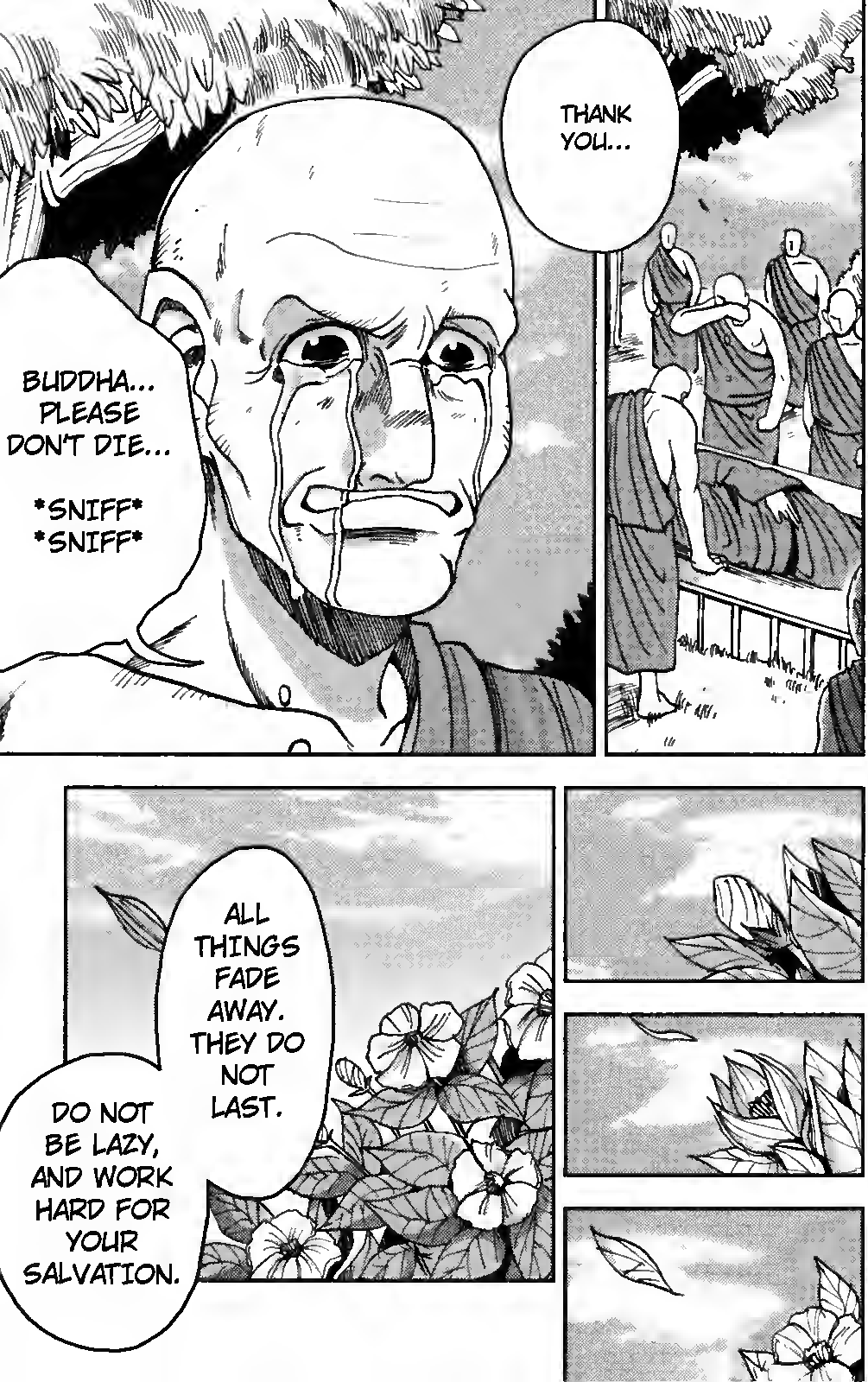
HOWEVER, BUDDHA WAS CONCERNED MORE FOR CUNDA THE BLACKSMITH THAN HIS OWN BODY.
PEOPLE MAY BLAME AND HARASS CUNDA...
BUT THAT IS NOT RIGHT...
PLEASE TELL CUNDA THIS.
THE MEAL THAT CUNDA GAVE ME IS THE SAME AS THE MILK PORRIDGE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY SUJATA WHEN I WAS ON THE PATH OF ENLIGHTENMENT.
BOTH OF THEM ARE VIRTUOUS ACTS.
BUDDHA ...


ALTHOUGH BUDDHA FELT HIS DEATH DRAWING NEAR...
HE STILL CONTINUED TO TEACH THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGES AND TOWNS THAT HE VISITED.

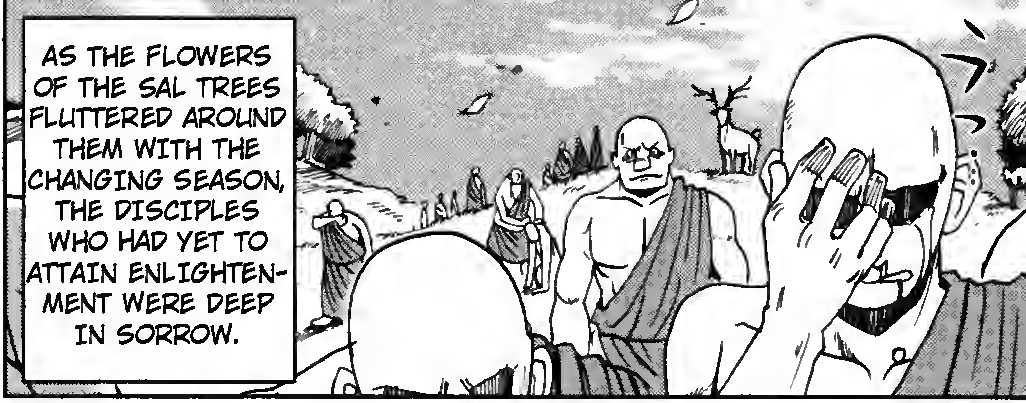

DURING THE LAST JOURNEY, IN THE TOWN OF KUSHINAGAR ...
ANANDA, I AM A LITTLE TIRED.
I WANT TO LIE DOWN.

IN BETWEEN TWO SAL TREES, THE DISCIPLES PREPARED A BED FACING NORTH.
ANANDA...
YES...?
ON HIS RIGHT SIDE WITH HIS LEGS TOGETHER, BUDDHA LAY DOWN.

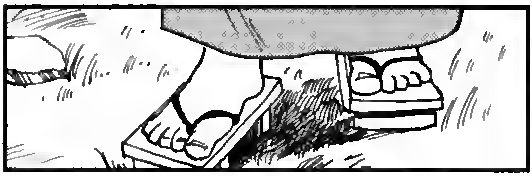
ANANDA... ALLOW ME TO THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING AND SERVING ME ALL THIS TIME.


BUDDHA... PLEASE DON'T DIE...
SNIFF *SNIFF*
THANK YOU...
ALL THINGS FADE AWAY. THEY DO NOT LAST.
DO NOT BE LAZY, AND WORK HARD FOR YOUR SALVATION.

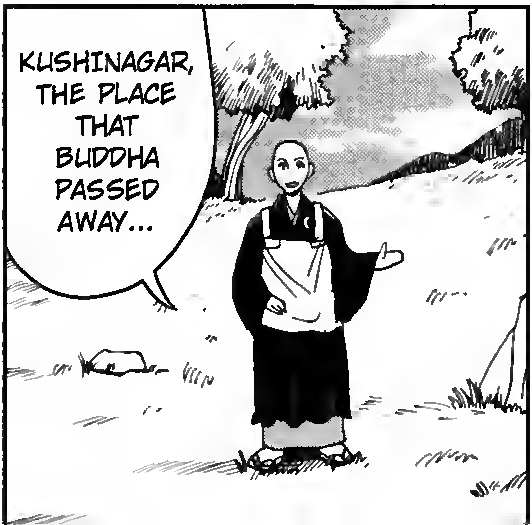
WITH THAT BUDDHA PASSED AWAY AT KUSHINAGAR.
BUDDHA BLESSED HIS DISCIPLES WITH HIS AMAZING TEACHINGS AND WISDOM. HIS LIFE ENDED AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY.

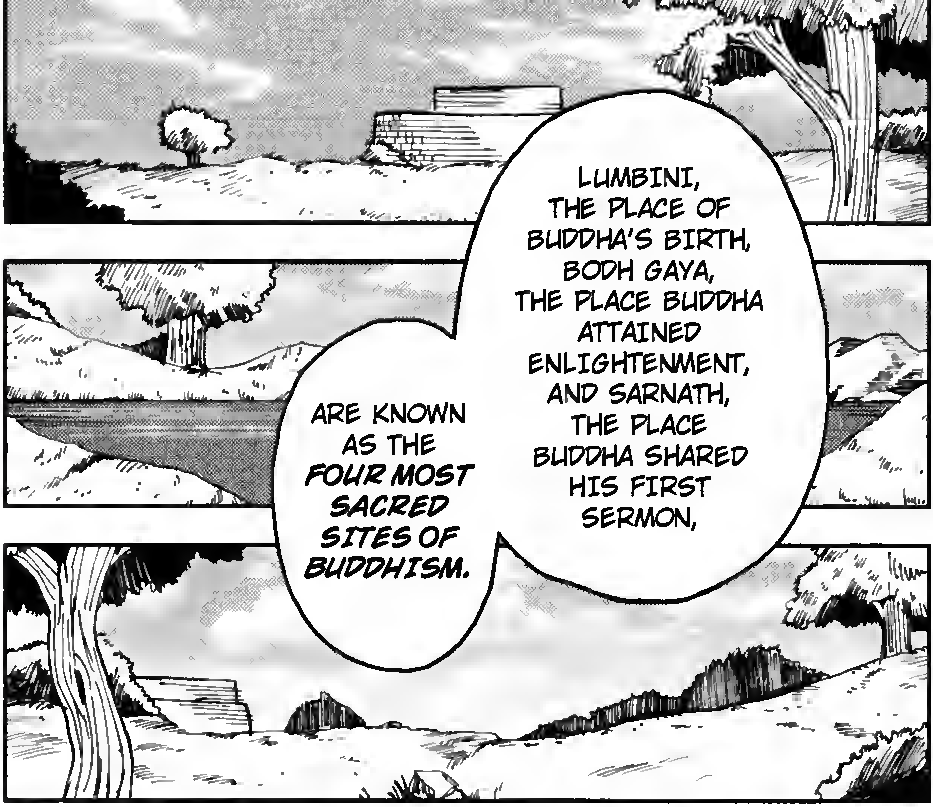

AS THE FLOWERS OF THE SAL TREES FLUTTERED AROUND THEM WITH THE CHANGING SEASON, THE DISCIPLES WHO HAD YET TO ATTAIN ENLIGHTEN-MENT WERE DEEP IN SORROW.

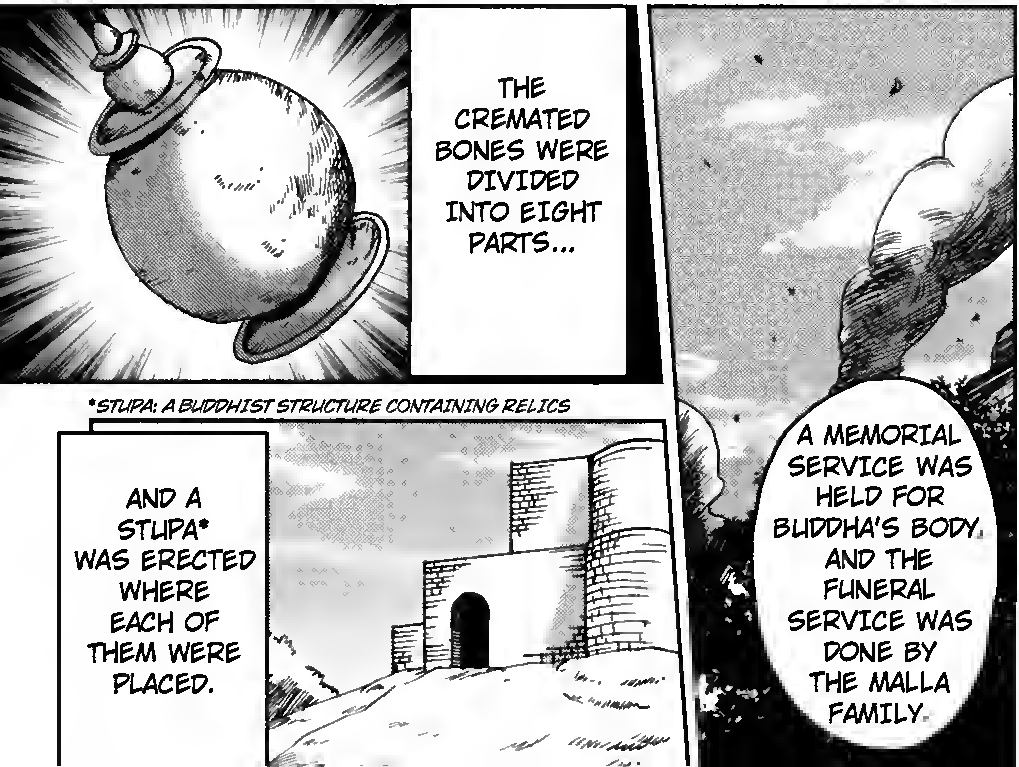
THE ONES WHO DID QUIETLY ENDURED THEIR SORROW, BUT MANY OF THE PEOPLE GRIEVED DEEPLY.



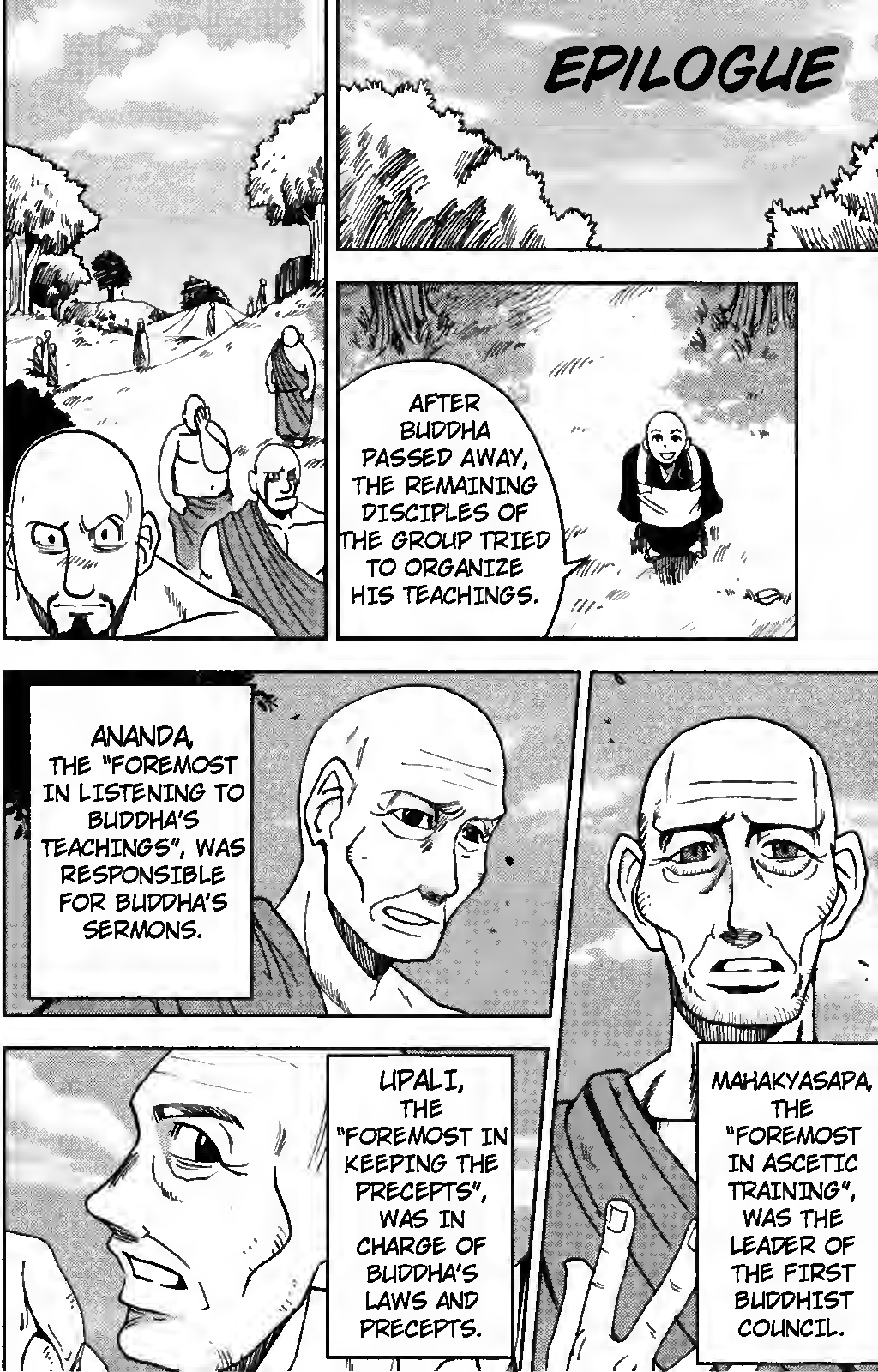
SOB...
SOB...

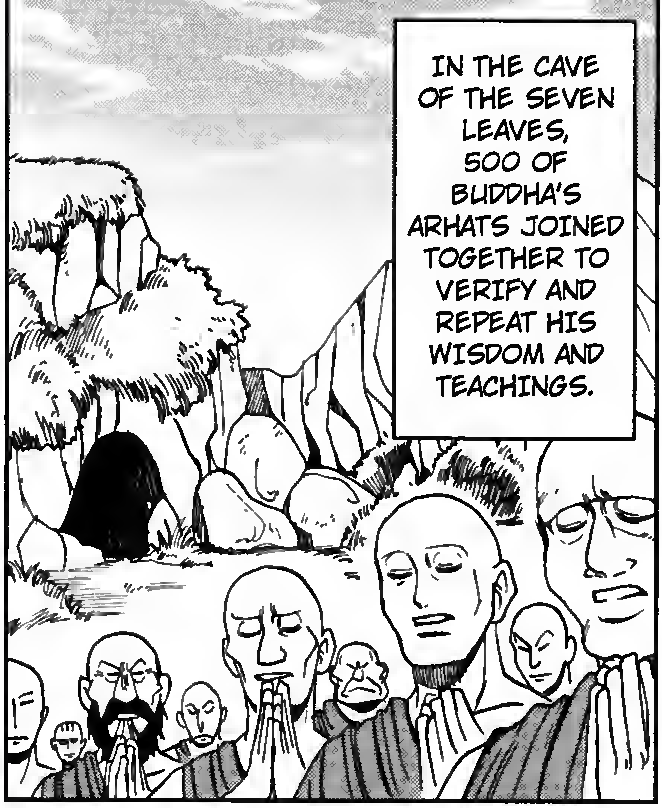

KUSHINAGAR, THE PLACE THAT BUDDHA PASSED AWAY...


LUMBINI, THE PLACE OF BUDDHA'S BIRTH, BODH GAYA, THE PLACE BUDDHA ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT, AND SARNATH, THE PLACE BUDDHA SHARED HIS FIRST SERMON,
ARE KNOWN AS THE FOUR MOST SACRED SITES OF BUDDHISM.

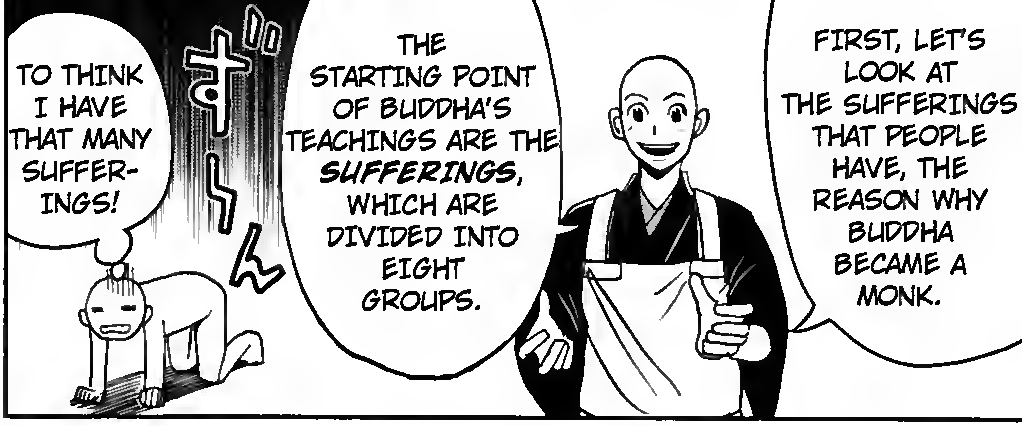

THE CREMATED BONES WERE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT PARTS...
A MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS HELD FOR BUDDHA'S BODY, AND THE FUNERAL SERVICE WAS DONE BY THE MALLA FAMILY.
AND A STUPA* WAS ERECTED WHERE EACH OF THEM WERE PLACED.

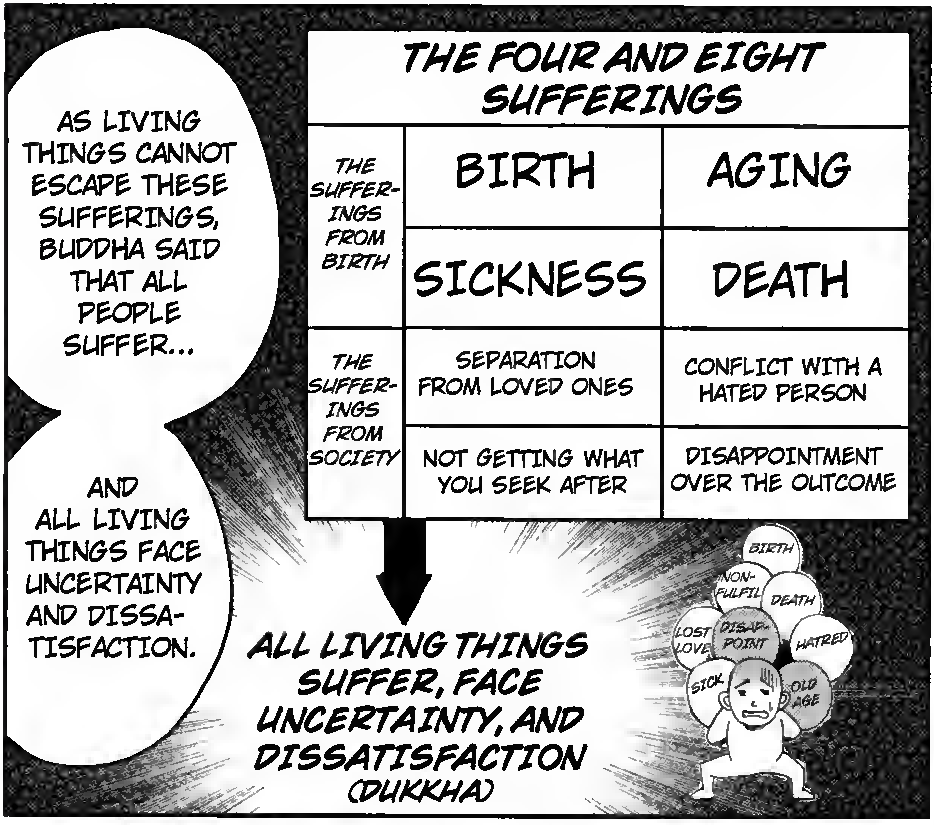
*STUPA: A BUDDHIST STRUCTURE CONTAINING RELICS

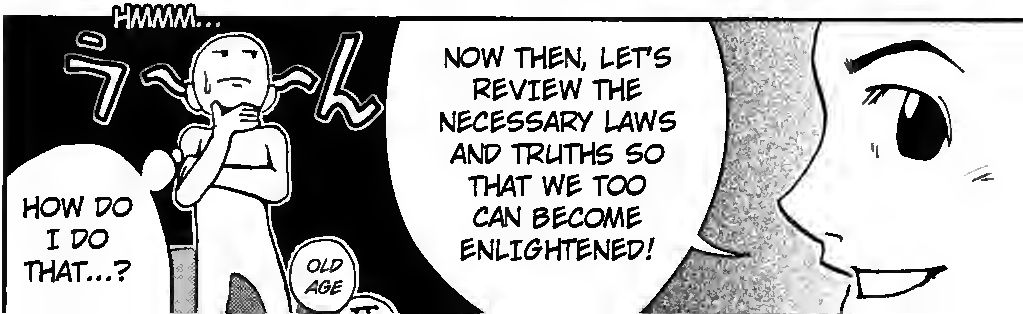

EPILOGUE
AFTER BUDDHA PASSED AWAY, THE REMAINING DISCIPLES OF THE GROUP TRIED TO ORGANIZE HIS TEACHINGS.
ANANDA, THE "FOREMOST IN LISTENING TO BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS", WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BUDDHA'S SERMONS.
MAHAKYASAPA, THE "FOREMOST IN ASCETIC TRAINING", WAS THE LEADER OF THE FIRST BUDDHIST COUNCIL.
UPALI, THE "FOREMOST IN KEEPING THE PRECEPTS", WAS IN CHARGE OF BUDDHA'S LAWS AND PRECEPTS.

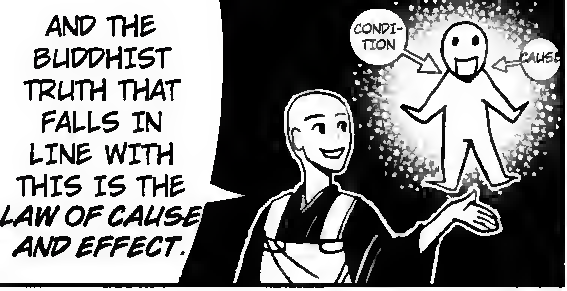

IN THE CAVE OF THE SEVEN LEAVES, 500 OF BUDDHA'S ARHATS JOINED TOGETHER TO VERIFY AND REPEAT HIS WISDOM AND TEACHINGS.

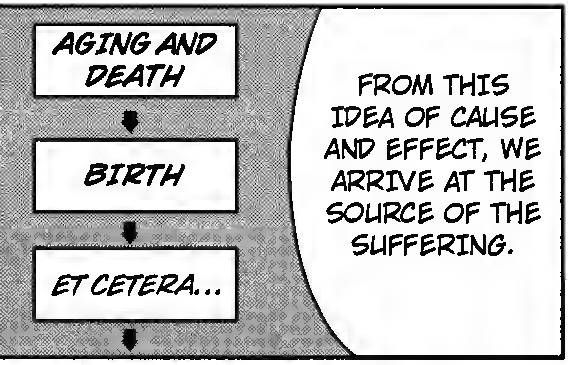
FROM HERE, LET'S ALSO LOOK BACK ON THE WISDOM AND TEACHINGS THAT BUDDHA LEFT BEHIND IN HIS 45 YEARS OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

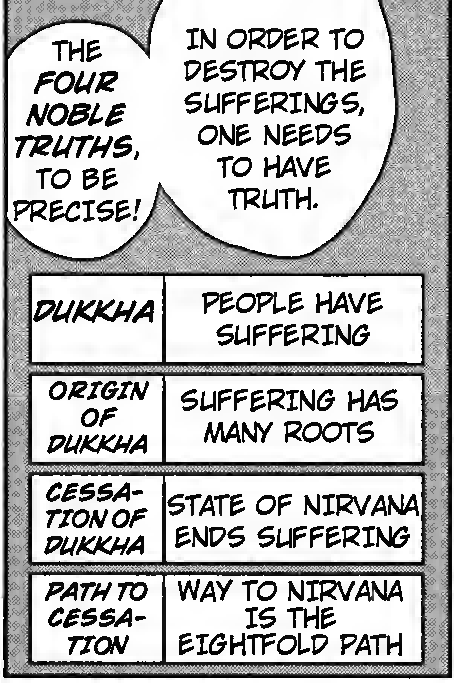

TO THINK I HAVE THAT MANY SUFFERINGS!
THE STARTING POINT OF BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS ARE THE SUFFERINGS, WHICH ARE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT GROUPS.
FIRST, LET'S LOOK AT THE SUFFERINGS THAT PEOPLE HAVE, THE REASON WHY BUDDHA BECAME A MONK.

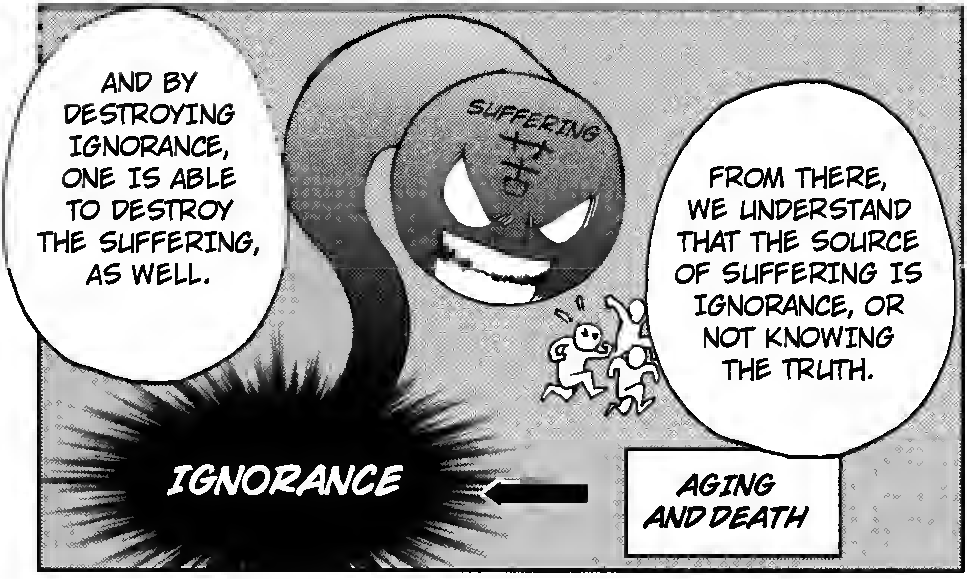

AS LIVING THINGS CANNOT ESCAPE THESE SUFFERINGS, BUDDHA SAID THAT ALL PEOPLE SUFFER...
AND ALL LIVING THINGS FACE UNCERTAINTY AND DISSATISFACTION.
THE FOUR AND EIGHT SUFFERINGS
THE SUFFERINGS FROM BIRTH
BIRTH
AGING
SICKNESS
DEATH
THE SUFFERINGS FROM SOCIETY
SEPARATION FROM LOVED ONES
CONFLICT WITH A HATED PERSON
NOT GETTING WHAT YOU SEEK AFTER
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE OUTCOME
ALL LIVING THINGS SUFFER, FACE UNCERTAINTY, AND DISSATISFACTION (DUKKHA)
BIRTH
NON-FULFIL
DEATH
LOST LOVE
DISAP-POINT
HATRED
SICK
OLD AGE


HMMM...
HOW DO I DO THAT...?
OLD AGE
NOW THEN, LET'S REVIEW THE NECESSARY LAWS AND TRUTHS SO THAT WE TOO CAN BECOME ENLIGHTENED!

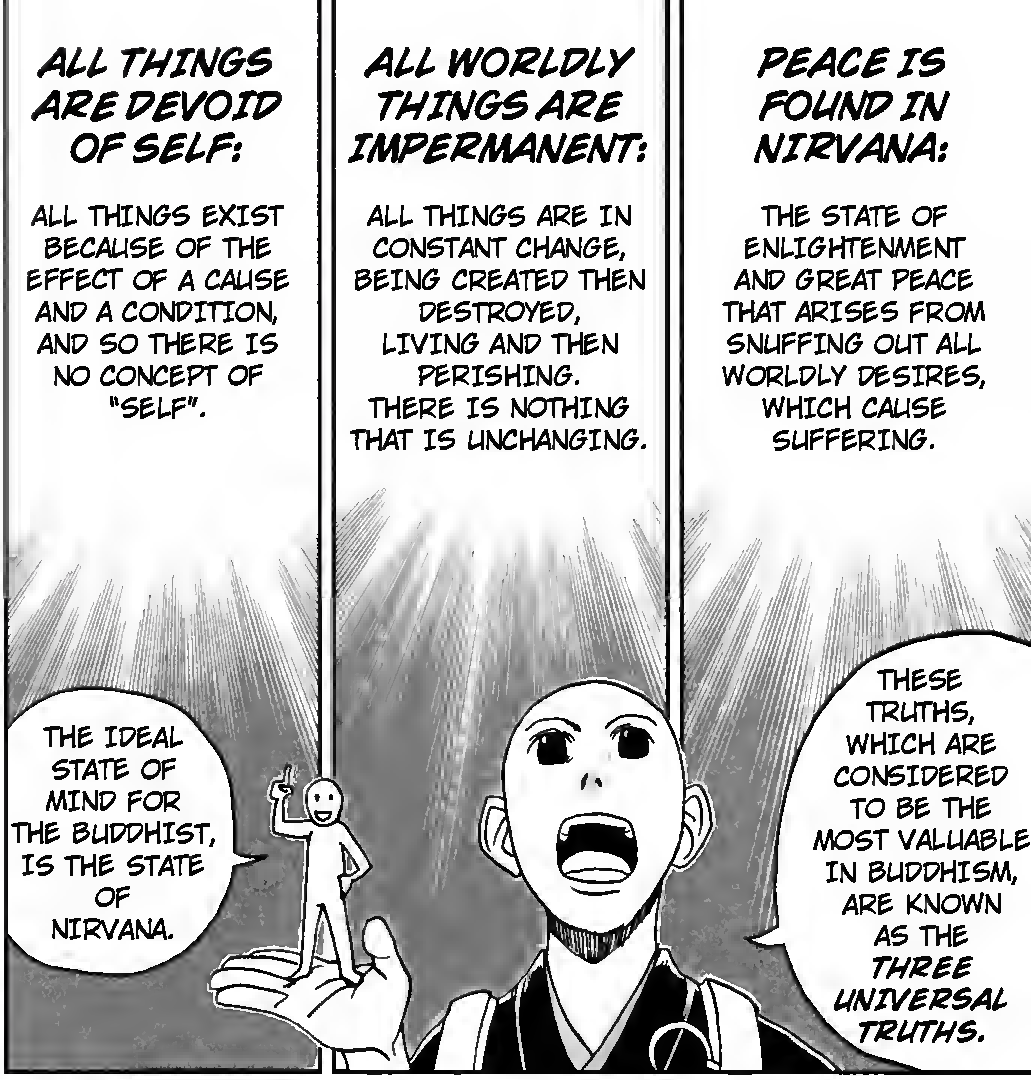

AND THE BUDDHIST TRUTH THAT FALLS IN LINE WITH THIS IS THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.
CONDI-TION
CAUSE

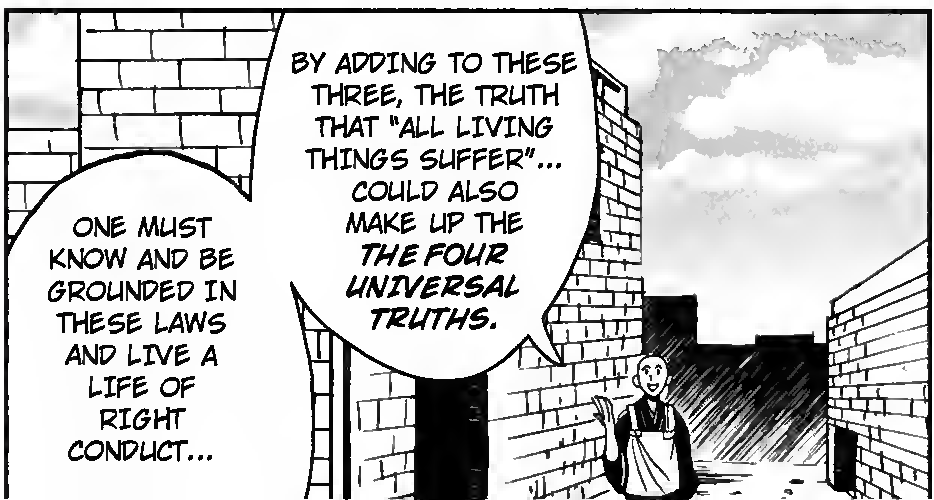

AGING AND DEATH
BIRTH
ET CETERA...
FROM THIS IDEA OF CAUSE AND EFFECT, WE ARRIVE AT THE SOURCE OF THE SUFFERING.

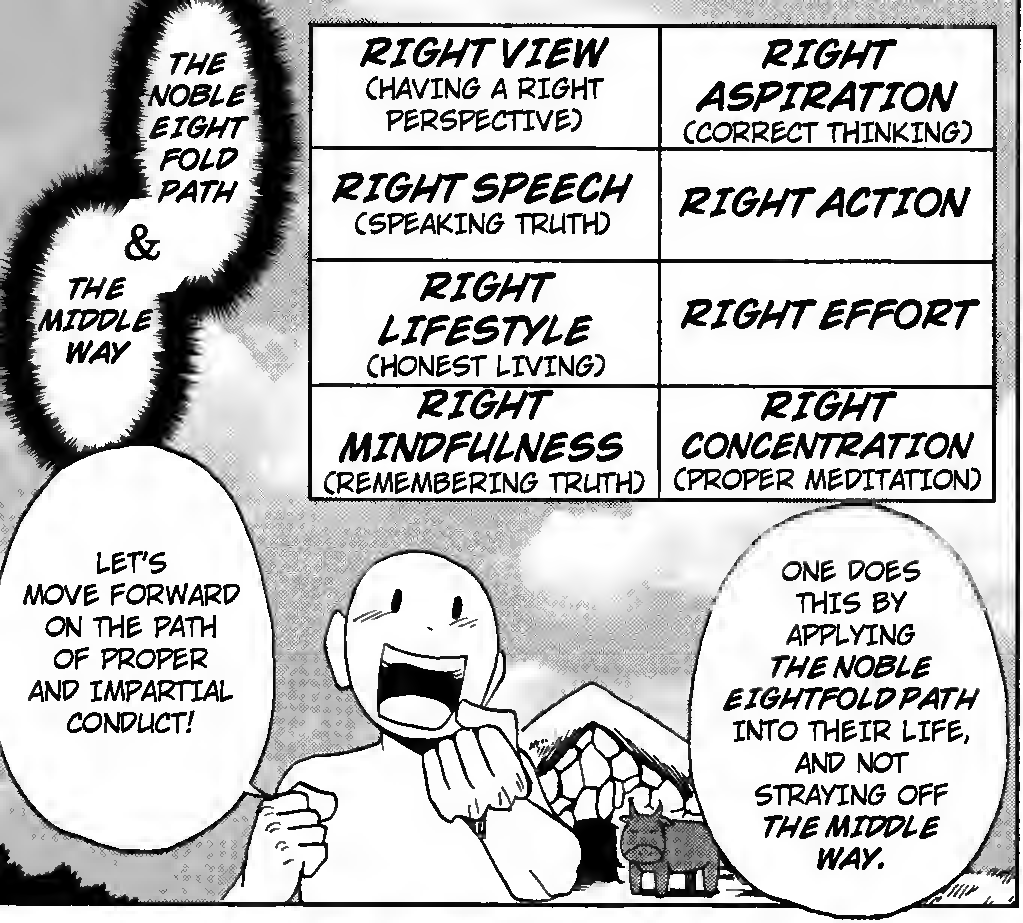

THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS, TO BE PRECISE!
IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE SUFFERINGS, ONE NEEDS TO HAVE TRUTH.
DUKKHA
PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERING
ORIGIN OF DUKKHA
SUFFERING HAS MANY ROOTS
CESSA-TION OF DUKKHA
STATE OF NIRVANA ENDS SUFFERING
PATH TO CESSA-TION
WAY TO NIRVANA IS THE EIGHTFOLD PATH

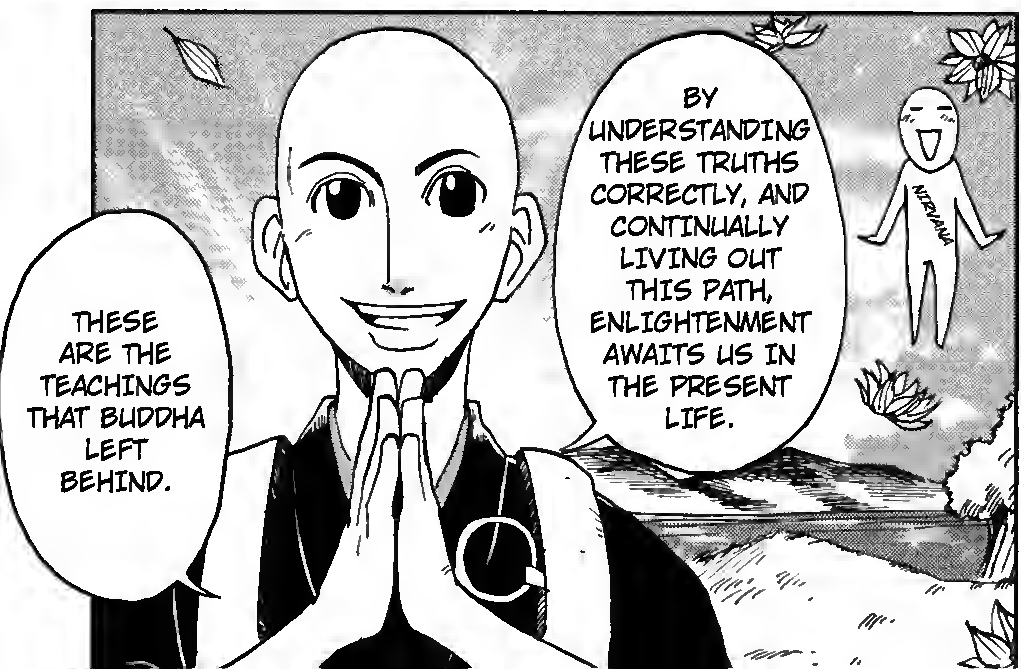

AND BY DESTROYING IGNORANCE, ONE IS ABLE TO DESTROY THE SUFFERING, AS WELL.
SUFFERING
FROM THERE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING IS IGNORANCE, OR NOT KNOWING THE TRUTH.
IGNORANCE
AGING AND DEATH

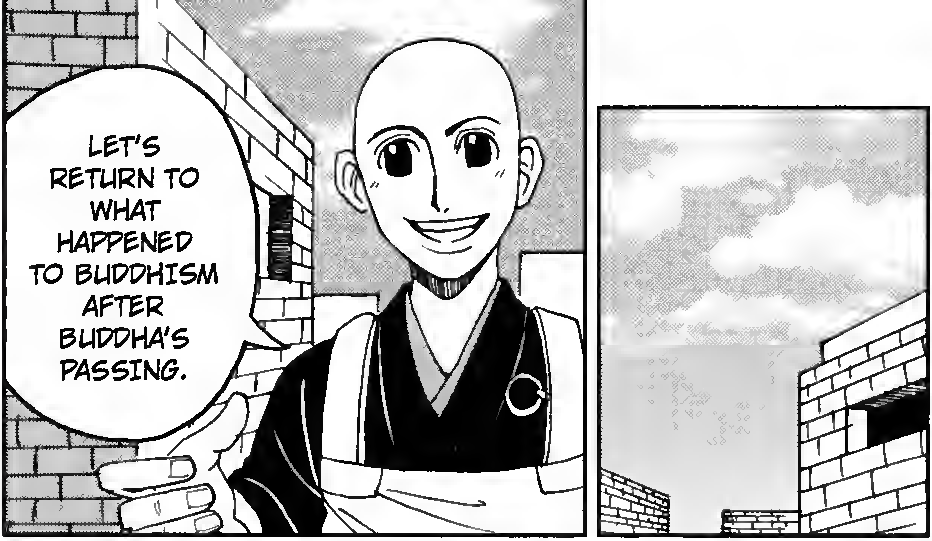
IN ORDER TO OVERCOME IGNORANCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTHS!

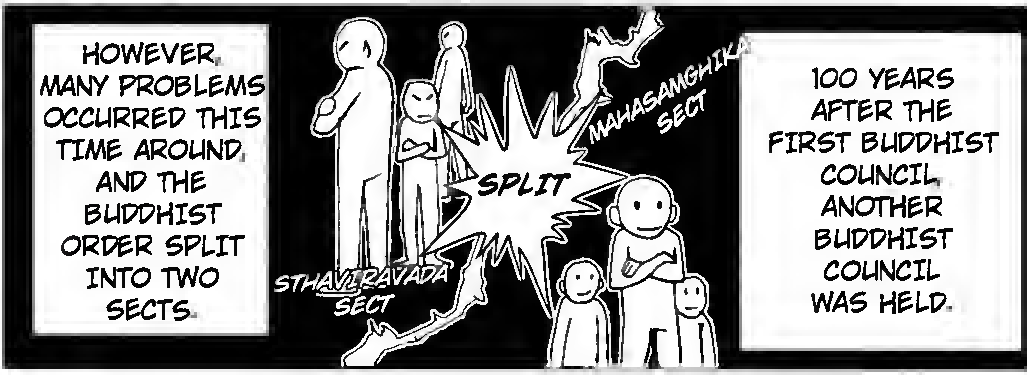

ALL THINGS ARE DEVOID OF SELF:
ALL THINGS EXIST BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT OF A CAUSE AND A CONDITION, AND SO THERE IS NO CONCEPT OF "SELF".
ALL WORLDLY THINGS ARE IMPERMANENT:
ALL THINGS ARE IN CONSTANT CHANGE, BEING CREATED THEN DESTROYED, LIVING AND THEN PERISHING. THERE IS NOTHING THAT IS UNCHANGING.
PEACE IS FOUND IN NIRVANA:
THE STATE OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND GREAT PEACE THAT ARISES FROM SNUFFING OUT ALL WORLDLY DESIRES, WHICH CAUSE SUFFERING.
THE IDEAL STATE OF MIND FOR THE BUDDHIST, IS THE STATE OF NIRVANA.
THESE TRUTHS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE IN BUDDHISM, ARE KNOWN AS THE THREE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS.

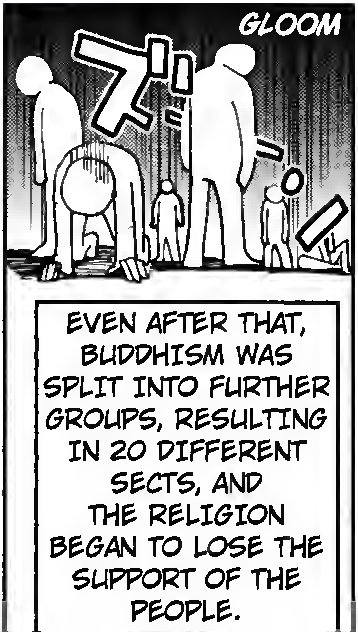

ONE MUST KNOW AND BE GROUNDED IN THESE LAWS AND LIVE A LIFE OF RIGHT CONDUCT...
BY ADDING TO THESE THREE, THE TRUTH THAT "ALL LIVING THINGS SUFFER"... COULD ALSO MAKE UP THE THE FOUR UNIVERSAL TRUTHS.

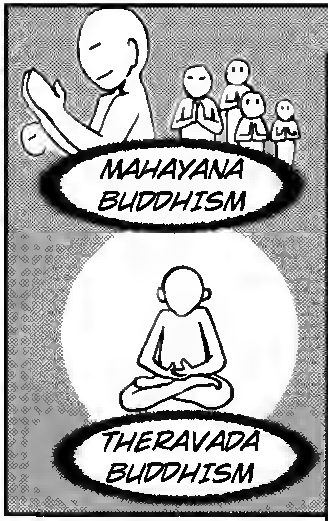

THE NOBLE EIGHT FOLD PATH
&
THE MIDDLE WAY
RIGHT VIEW (HAVING A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE)
RIGHT ASPIRATION (CORRECT THINKING)
RIGHT SPEECH (SPEAKING TRUTH)
RIGHT ACTION
RIGHT LIFESTYLE (HONEST LIVING)
RIGHT EFFORT
RIGHT MINDFULNESS (REMEMBERING TRUTH)
RIGHT CONCENTRATION (PROPER MEDITATION)
LET'S MOVE FORWARD ON THE PATH OF PROPER AND IMPARTIAL CONDUCT!
ONE DOES THIS BY APPLYING THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH INTO THEIR LIFE, AND NOT STRAYING OFF THE MIDDLE WAY.


THESE ARE THE TEACHINGS THAT BUDDHA LEFT BEHIND.
BY UNDERSTANDING THESE TRUTHS CORRECTLY, AND CONTINUALLY LIVING OUT THIS PATH, ENLIGHTENMENT AWAITS US IN THE PRESENT LIFE.
NIRVANA



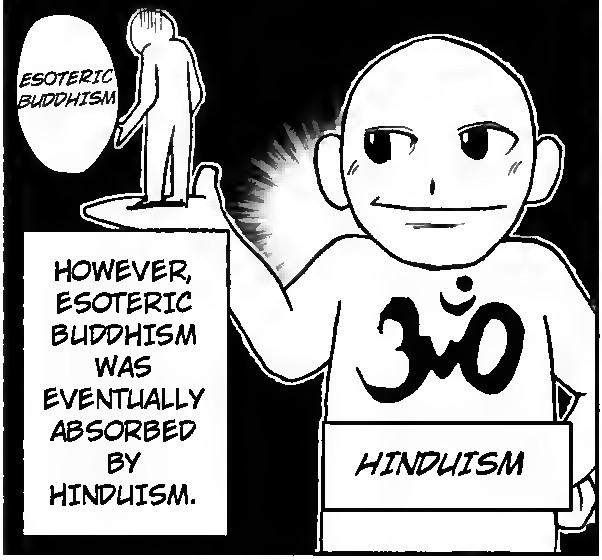

HOWEVER, MANY PROBLEMS OCCURRED THIS TIME AROUND, AND THE BUDDHIST ORDER SPLIT INTO TWO SECTS.
MAHASAMGHIKA SECT
SPLIT
STHAVIRAVADA SECT
100 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST BUDDHIST COUNCIL, ANOTHER BUDDHIST COUNCIL WAS HELD.

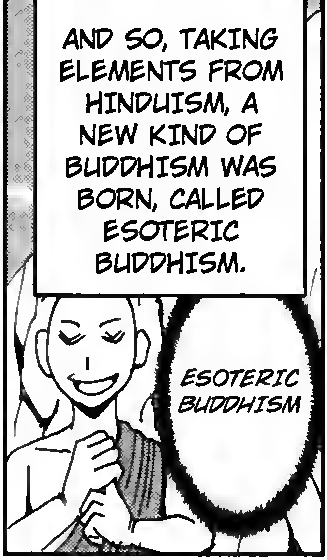

GLOOM
EVEN AFTER THAT, BUDDHISM WAS SPLIT INTO FURTHER GROUPS, RESULTING IN 20 DIFFERENT SECTS, AND THE RELIGION BEGAN TO LOSE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

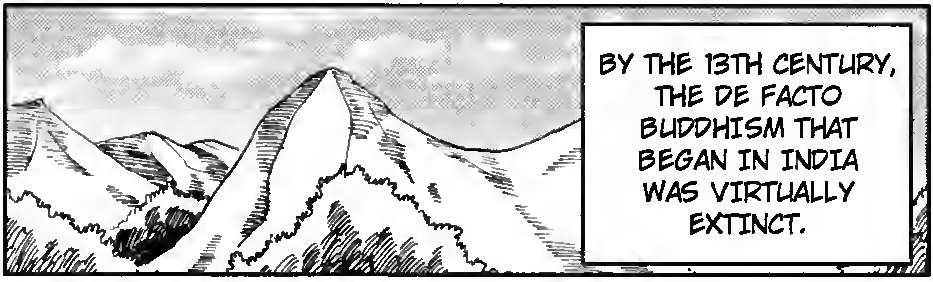


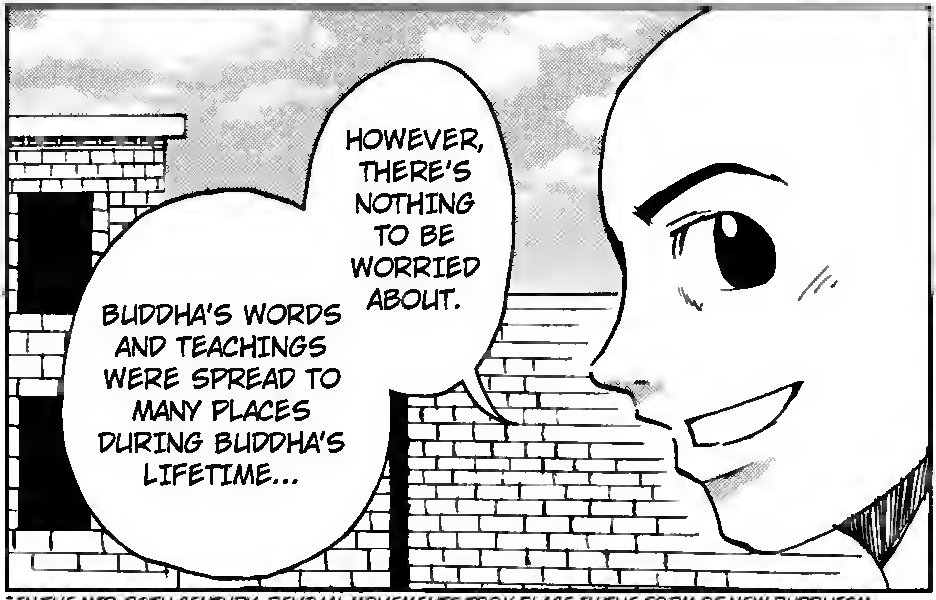
THE MAHASAMGHIKA SECT WOULD LATER BE CALLED ***MAHAYANA*** BUDDHISM, WHICH VALUED THE MIND AND AIMED TO HELP THE PUBLIC.

THE STHAVIRAVADA SECT WOULD LATER BE CALLED ***THERAVADA*** BUDDHISM, VALUING TRADITION AND THE STRICT DISCIPLINE OF ONE'S FAITH.

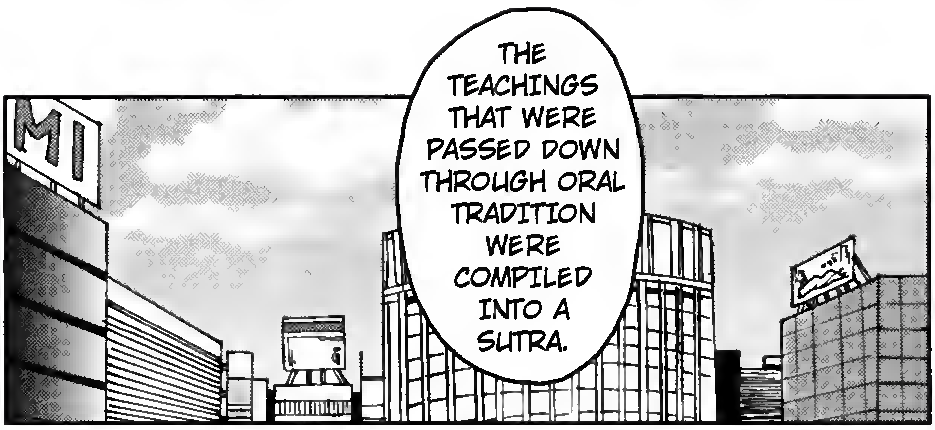




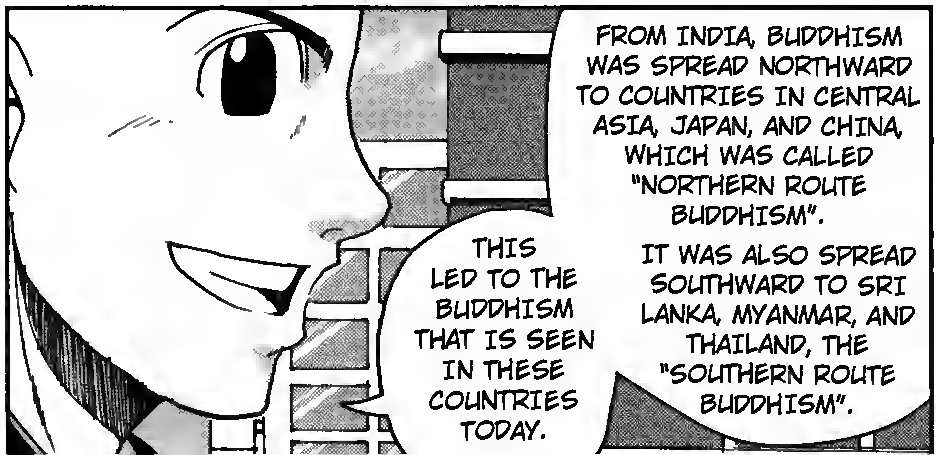



HOWEVER, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.
BUDDHA'S WORDS AND TEACHINGS WERE SPREAD TO MANY PLACES DURING BUDDHA'S LIFETIME...

*IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY, REVIVAL MOVEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE FORM OF NEW BUDDHISM.


THE TEACHINGS THAT WERE PASSED DOWN THROUGH ORAL TRADITION WERE COMPILED INTO A SUTRA.

AS TIME PASSED, BUDDHA'S WORDS AND TEACHINGS SPREAD OUT TO MANY COUNTRIES.


FROM INDIA, BUDDHISM WAS SPREAD NORTHWARD TO COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL ASIA, JAPAN, AND CHINA, WHICH WAS CALLED "NORTHERN ROUTE BUDDHISM".
IT WAS ALSO SPREAD SOUTHWARD TO SRI LANKA, MYANMAR, AND THAILAND, THE "SOUTHERN ROUTE BUDDHISM".
THIS LED TO THE BUDDHISM THAT IS SEEN IN THESE COUNTRIES TODAY.

ALTHOUGH WE SEE DIFFERENCES DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY AND THE RELIGIOUS SECTS...
BUDDHISM HAS GIVEN FAITH TO MANY PEOPLE AND CONTINUES TO HELP THEM TODAY.
WELL THEN, MY TIME WITH YOU IS ALMOST OVER.
PEOPLE WILL FACE SUFFERING AND ANXIETY.
IT CANNOT BE AVOIDED...

BUT IF YOU STUDY THE WORDS AND WISDOM LEFT BEHIND BY BUDDHA, I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING AND OVERCOME IT!
I SINCERELY HOPE THE BEST FOR YOUR LIVES!
WITH THAT, I BID YOU FAREWELL!
まんがで読破
ブッダのことば
THE END
THE WORD OF BUDDHA

まんがで読破シリーズ公式ウェブサイト
http://www.eastpress.co.jp/manga/

ブッダのことば（スッタニパータ）
まんがで読破

発 行 日　2010年6月10日 初版第1刷(紙書籍)
2010年9月1日(電子書籍版)

原　　作　ブッダ

企画･漫画　バラエティ･アートワークス

発 行 所　株式会社イースト･プレス
〒101-0051
東京都千代田区神田神保町2-4-7
久月神田ビル 7階
http://www.eastpress.co.jp

※本書の内容の一部あるいはすべてを無断で複写・複製
転載することを禁じます。

©VARIETY ART WORKS 2010